

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

## Civil servants' salaries go up

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Sunday decided to increase salaries of civil servants and employees of government departments, members of the Armed Forces, Public Security and Civil Defence departments and conscripts serving the mandatory two-year military training and pensioners. A statement issued at the end of regular cabinet meeting said that the decision was taken in compliance with His Majesty King Hussein's directives contained in the speech from the throne last year. According to the cabinet statement, the increases were worked out in a way as to give justice to lower class employees. The cabinet also endorsed a new set of regulations for the judicial system in Jordan. The details of the new increases in salaries will be announced as soon as legal procedures have been finalised, the statement said.

## Seminar condemns Israeli practices

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Islamic Conference Bureau on Jerusalem held a seminar Sunday on Al Aqsa Mosque to discuss Israeli measures against holy places in the Holy City. The meeting was attended by Sheikh Sa'deddin Al Alami, chairman of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem, who presented a briefing on Zionist actions and violations of the holy places. He spoke about Israeli plans to send Jews to pray in Islamic holy shrines and Israeli settlers' harassment of Muslim worshippers. Sheikh Alami also spoke about Israel's repeated attempts to plant explosives to demolish Al Aqsa and other religious sites in Jerusalem. All the Christian and Islamic places in the Holy City are now in grave danger due to the Israeli actions, Sheikh Alami said.

## Grenade hurled at Israeli army vehicle

AMMAN (Petra) — A hand grenade was thrown on an Israeli army vehicle Sunday morning near a refugee camp near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah and one soldier was injured, according to news received from the West Bank. Israeli troops arrested several citizens from the area, the reports said.

## Settlers open fire on Halhoul residents

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank opened fire on residents of the town of Halhoul and kidnapped one citizen, Radio Israel said Sunday. The radio claimed that the settlers were responding to Arab stoning of a settlers' vehicle outside the town.

## Iraqi interior minister in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Iraqi Interior Minister Saadoun Shakir flew to Saudi Arabia Sunday as Riyadh Radio voiced concern over the escalating Iran-Iraq war. The radio said that for-fort attacks only served to split the Muslim Nation and it called on peace-loving countries to help end the 53-month-old war. The Saudi Press Agency reported Mr. Shakir's arrival in Riyadh but gave no details.

## Pakistan jails 5 for 25 years

ISLAMABAD (R) — A military court in Rawalpindi Sunday sentenced five dissidents to 25 years in jail for plotting against Pakistan's military government, official sources said. Thirteen other people were acquitted, the sources said. Military authorities originally accused the dissidents of being aided by Libya, but legal sources said references to Libya were later dropped. Last Wednesday a court in the Punjab province capital Lahore sentenced 54 people accused of plotting against the government to 25 years imprisonment.

## Shamir heads for Brussels, Canada

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir flew to Brussels Sunday to meet European Community (EC) officials in a renewed effort to protect Israeli farm produce from competition. Israel fears its agricultural exports to Europe will be harmed by the entry of Spain and Portugal into the community, scheduled for next year. From Brussels Mr. Shamir will travel to Canada to meet Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

## Gromyko welcomes Dumas to Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko welcomed Roland Dumas, France's minister for external relations, on his arrival in Moscow Sunday for talks beginning Monday, on the eve of U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations. Mr. Gromyko was accompanied by French Ambassador in Moscow Jean-Bernard Raimond to welcome Mr. Dumas.

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# Bomb-laden car rams occupation army convoy 9 Israeli soldiers killed in suicide blast near Metullah

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A suicide bomber drove a car full of explosives into an Israeli convoy near the Lebanese-Israeli border Sunday and blew it up, killing at least 9 Israeli soldiers.

Lebanon's state radio put the casualty toll at 12 Israelis dead and 20 injured. Israeli military sources said as many as 10 Israelis died. An anonymous caller told the Lebanese radio station "Voice of Arab Lebanon" about an hour after the blast that the car bomb was driven by a member of the Lebanese national resistance in retaliation for a car bomb that killed 80 people Friday near a west Beirut mosque. The caller said there would be a longer statement later.

Lebanese officials and leaders blame Israel for the Beirut bombing, which also injured over 200 people. The Israelis vehemently denied the charge.

An anonymous caller later said "Holy Warriors" launched the attack.

The caller told a Western news agency in Beirut: "We affirm to our enemy (Israeli Prime Min-

ister) Shimon Peres that we shall reply to his use of the iron fist against our people with the victorious and faithful fist of Hussein (grandson of the Prophet Mohammed)."

The caller said he spoke for Al Mujahideen. "The Holy Warriors."

In Metullah, on the Lebanese-Israeli border, an Israeli military source quoted by Reuters confirmed the death of nine Israeli soldiers in Sunday's attack. More than a dozen were wounded, the source said.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army also confirmed the deaths and said the attack occurred a few hundred metres north of the Israeli border town of Metullah near a gate between Israel and Lebanon and at the same place where two Israeli soldiers were killed in a bomb blast on Feb. 10.

Beirut Radio quoted police and other sources as saying that a Mer-

cedes car with a lone occupant drove into the Israeli convoy on the Tal Al Ehnass road in the Marjayoun Valley about 100 metres from the border gate. It said the car hit a truck full of Israeli soldiers, and the explosion set fire to a number of Israeli vehicles.

As the fire spread, machinegun fire could be heard as the surviving Israelis reacted to the attack. Helicopters quickly appeared to take out the wounded and dead, residents of the area told the radio.

The Lebanese "Voice of Lebanon" radio said the driver of the explosive-laden car was killed immediately and the Israeli army sealed off the area immediately. According to the military source quoted by Reuters, the suicide driver crashed his vehicle into an open-sided Israeli "Safar" troop truck approaching the checkpoint.

"The explosion was terrifying. There was a giant fire and then black smoke shot up," Aina Belsky, manager of Metullah's Aram Hotel, said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. The hotel is about 300 metres from the blast site.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quoted as telling a gathering: "We had a very bad day

today. Nine of our soldiers were killed."

Metullah residents said the blast broke windows in the town.

"There was an incredible explosion just a little before 2 p.m.," hotelier Reuven Weinberg told Reuters by telephone from Metullah. "I've heard a lot of explosions, but this one was really something."

There was no immediate word from Israeli authorities on the number of casualties.

Sunday's bombing creates further complications for Israel's multiparty government, which last week decided to implement the second stage of a three-phase plan to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon.

It was the worst attack against Israeli troops in South Lebanon since the November 1983 suicide bombing of Israeli military headquarters in Tyre in which 29 Israelis died.

In that attack, a bomb-laden truck was driven into a compound where Israelis detained and questioned prisoners.

Before Sunday's attack, the Israeli death toll in Lebanon since

(Continued on page 2)

## Khaddam winds up lengthy talks in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel and leaders of the main factions in his "national coalition" government met through a second day Sunday with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam to discuss political reforms and ways to end Lebanon's 10 years of violence.

After the six-hour session, the participants said the discussions had been positive, but gave no details and announced no decisions.

"Agreement has been reached on a number of issues," Mr. Khaddam told reporters before leaving for Damascus.

He mentioned the "security situation," which is a euphemism for the continuing violence in Beirut and elsewhere, the "role of the army," and the emergency legislative decrees issued by the previous prime minister, Shafiq Al Wazzan, before his government resigned a year ago. Critics of the government are demanding that the decrees be cancelled.

Mr. Khaddam, Syria's expert on Lebanese affairs, had arrived Saturday and held three sessions with Mr. Gemayel and other Lebanese leaders. The talks lasted until 2 a.m. Sunday, then resumed at 10

a.m. Sunday.

They included Mr. Gemayel's two main critics, Socialist leader and Minister of Transport Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Muslim leader and Minister of Justice Nabih Berri, as well as Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Other cabinet members were called in from time to time during the sessions.

But a full meeting of the nine-man cabinet scheduled for 3:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) without Mr. Khaddam was cancelled because two cabinet members were ill and a third was in South Lebanon.

Mr. Berri called the weekend of discussions "positive," but gave no clearer details of what was decided. Mr. Junblatt said the talks had been "interesting as they removed a lot of obstacles," but refused to elaborate.

Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Berri have been boycotting cabinet meetings to demand implementation of political reforms to give Lebanon's Muslim majority a greater share in government.

The reforms were promised when the present government took office 10 months ago, but leaders of the Christian minority have demanded fighting should cease before reforms can be made.

## Casualties mount in Iran-Iraq shellings

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Civilian casualties mounted Sunday as Gulf war attacks on settlements on both sides of the Iran-Iraq border escalated.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iran had been shelling the southern Iraqi port city of Basra intensively since 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) Saturday night.

Residents in Basra, contacted by telephone from Baghdad, said that since shells had been falling on average every 30 minutes on the city, Iraq's second largest with one million inhabitants.

Reuters correspondent Tod Robertson reported from Basra that he counted the sound of some 130 shells during the night. "Then the city was almost calm again at noon (0900 GMT) today when suddenly the shelling resumed at an average of two rounds a minute. But this lasted only a few minutes," Robertson said.

He quoted a retired Iraqi army officer as saying the Iranian artillery fire was "irritant shelling to keep the people in a state of constant alert and confusion."

City officials told Robertson a number of Basra residents had been killed or wounded Sunday but that exact figures were not

available.

Tehran radio said Isfahan, ancient royal capital of Persia, was one of seven Iranian towns bombed by Iraqi planes or hit by long-range missile Sunday.

The Iranian national news agency IRNA reported later that an eighth city, the former oil refinery centre of Abadan, had also been hit Sunday by Iraqi bombers and long-range artillery.

In a later dispatch on the attack on Isfahan, IRNA said Iraqi planes hit two areas of the city with rockets at 12:30 p.m. (0900 GMT), wounding at least 15 people.

Abadan, only a few kilometres from Iraq and a bustling oil refinery centre before the war, was bombed three times Sunday by Iraqi planes, destroying many buildings and starting fires, IRNA reported. The Iraqis also pounded the city with artillery, it added.

An Iraqi military spokesman said its warplanes had hit a "naval target" near the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island Sunday morning, its 37th such claim this year. There was no independent verification.

(Continued on page 2)

## Karamanlis resigns

ATHENS (R) — Greece's conservative President Constantine Karamanlis, who nursed the country back to democracy from military dictatorship, resigned Sunday after the ruling Socialist decided not to back him for a further term.

The resignation was announced in a statement by the president's office.

Mr. Karamanlis, 78, had said Saturday that he would not stand for a further term as president after the Pasok (Socialist) Party of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu chose a candidate of its own to oppose him.

Mr. Karamanlis became conservative prime minister in 1974 and nursed the country back to democracy following seven years of military rule.

He became president in 1980, one year before the socialists swept to power amid anti-Western rhetoric.

Prime Minister Papandreu Saturday sent a shockwave through Greek politics by nominating a supreme court judge as his party's presidential candidate.

The president's office said Sunday that Mr. Karamanlis had informed the speaker of parliament that he had resigned.

## Bonn FDP faces crucial test in local polls...

BONN (R) — Voters in West Berlin and Saarland went to the polls Sunday for regional elections in which Chancellor Helmut Kohl's junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), are fighting for their political future.

Most political commentators say the liberal FDP faces an uphill struggle to win enough votes to stay in both state assemblies, where it now holds power with Dr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) on the same basis as in Bonn.

The FDP, whose performance could seal the fate of the main contenders, has faced a string of electoral defeats since it switched alliance at national level from the Social Democrats (SPD) to Dr. Kohl's conservatives in 1982.

Its task Sunday, two years into the federal coalition's four-year term in Bonn, was to win the minimum five per cent of the vote needed under electoral law to ensure continued representation in West Berlin and Saarland.

Political analysts say failure to win five per cent of the vote would raise serious doubt about the FDP's political future and increase pressure on Dr. Kohl from within the CDU to go for an absolute majority in the 1987 national elections.

slim majorities in at least 14 of 100 departments, hope to avoid sweeping opposition gains in the last test before National Assembly elections next year.

The Interior Ministry said early voting for the 1,950 departmental council seats at stake was slightly lower than in 1982, when 32 per cent did not vote, but higher than in 1979.

Political analysts say a high rate of absenteeism could handicap the efforts of Francois Mitterrand's Socialist Party to limit losses after a disastrous winter in the opinion polls.

Because of France's two-round electoral system, results in most

ional elections.

They also said the radical, anti-NATO Greens Party had a good chance of entering the Saarland state assembly for the first time and appeared set to double their share of the vote in West Berlin, where they campaign as the Alternative List (AL), to 14 per cent.

Elections were also taking place for local councils in the state of Hesse and commentators said polls there, involving two-thirds of Sunday's six million voters, could prove a more reliable pointer to national trends.

## ...as do ruling Socialists in French districts

PARIS (R) — The French voted Sunday in local council elections seen as a nationally important test of strength for both the ruling Socialists and the extreme right-wing National Front.

The elections, usually dominated by local issues, have been thrown into the national spotlight by the rise of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Mr. Le Pen, whose blunt anti-immigrant rhetoric has caught traditional parties off guard, is confident his party will confirm its strength after receiving 11 per cent of the vote in European elections last June.

The Socialists, who could lose

cantons will not be known until a second poll on March 17.

The front is unlikely to win many cantons in the second round, which will be decided by a simple majority, but could perform well in Sunday's voting, particularly in the south.

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius has said the election could be difficult for the Socialists and last week called on voters to turn their backs on the extreme right-wing.

"I call on everyone to go beyond traditional political divisions and build the largest possible unity to show that racism will not win in France," Mr. Fabius told a politically rally.



Black turbaned Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadhallah, surrounded by bodyguards, attends Saturday's funeral of victims of a bomb blast near west Beirut. Sheikh Fadhallah, believed to be a leader of a pro-Iranian party in Lebanon, escaped unhurt in the blast (AP wirephoto)

## Masri delivers Hussein's message to Sheikh Jaber

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Sunday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on the current Arab situation and Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the light of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

It said the message, delivered by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, also dealt with future moves in the international arena towards solving the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Masri arrived earlier in the day from Muscat, Oman, where he delivered a similar message from King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Mr. Masri told reporters in

Muscat, the message he gave the Sultan dealt with latest developments in the Arab World, and especially in the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Masri said he hoped President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt could bring the American point of view closer to that of the Arabs in his talks in Washington this week. He said that the PLO has asked for clarifications on certain clauses of the accord rather than for amendments. "Two clauses of the agreement have now been interpreted in a way that satisfies both sides," he added.

The King's messages to Sultan Qaboos and Sheikh Jaber are part of a series of messages he sent to the Gulf Arab leaders. Mr. Masri delivered the messages to the leaders of South and North Yemen, Bahrain and Qatar before arriving in Muscat on Saturday.

## Austrian minister arrives in Amman

AMMAN (U.T.) — Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz arrived Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan during which he is expected to discuss the latest Middle East peace initiatives and discuss bilateral issues.

Austrian Foreign Ministry officials quoted by Reuters in a dispatch from Vienna said Mr. Gratz was not seeking a role for neutral Austria in the present peace moves, in which Jordan is playing a central part.

Mr. Gratz is due to hold talks with Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and will be received by His Majesty King Hussein.

## Mubarak to seek active Reagan role in new Mideast initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will this week seek to involve President Reagan more actively in a new Middle East peace initiative.

The Egyptian leader, who arrived in Washington Saturday, wants Mr. Reagan to begin talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team to pave the way for direct negotiations with Israel.

The talks would deal with an agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for peace in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

Mr. Mubarak, who meets with Mr. Reagan on Tuesday, is also seeking more economic aid this year — reportedly \$870 million — in addition to the \$2.2 billion in economic and military aid Congress has already voted.

Mr. Mubarak's trip comes amid a flurry of peace activity in the

Middle East that U.S. officials consider encouraging.

On Thursday, Mr. Mubarak asked French President Francois Mitterrand to open a dialogue with the PLO, the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, reported Sunday.

Mr. Mubarak made the request when the two met in Paris, the newspaper said, and it was intended to lend momentum to the peace process because of France's influence within the European Community.

In the past, the Reagan administration resisted Arab calls for the United States to adopt a high-profile role in the Middle East.

But the Egyptian leader's foreign affairs adviser told a U.S. television interviewer Saturday: "We would like the White House to be actively involved in the peace process because... there is an opportunity for peace."

Mr. Mubarak's effort follows the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on a joint framework for peace.

Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and members of Congress on Monday. He plans to meet President Ronald Reagan at the White House Tuesday and return to Egypt the following day.

After leaving Washington, Mr. Mubarak is to travel to London and Rome to rally support for his plan as well as the Feb. 11 accord.

In Cairo, West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner Sunday praised President Mubarak's proposals as a step in the right direction.

West Germany viewed Mr. Mubarak's recent proposals as "a step in the right direction which might prove able to overcome the standstill in the Middle East," Mr. Woerner told a news conference.

## Israelis silent over contacts with Egypt on Mubarak's proposals

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials Sunday kept a veil a secrecy over reports of contacts with Cairo about Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Middle East peace initiative.

Senior officials declined to comment on local radio reports that Mr. Mubarak has suggested a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and has briefed Israel on his latest peace efforts.

But in Cairo, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Egypt's position on holding a summit between President Mubarak and Mr. Peres are unchanged.

"The position of Egypt has not changed, which is... that Egypt does not object to such a summit on condition that it is well-prepared to ensure that it is successful," the official, Mohsen Fahmi, told Reuters.

Mr. Fahmi, a senior aide to the foreign minister, had been asked to comment on the unofficial reports from Israel that Mr. Mubarak had suggested a summit with Mr. Peres and had briefed Israel on his latest Middle East peace proposals.

Israeli army radio has said that Mr. Mubarak proposed meeting Mr. Peres after he, Mr. Mubarak, returns from his current visit to Washington.

Mr. Mubarak meets President Reagan on Tuesday and will try to convince the U.S. administration to adopt his proposal for starting dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team as a first step to an international conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Peres said Saturday that efforts to launch peace talks faced great difficulties including Israel's rejection of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"I admit from the outset that this is an extremely complex situation. On a very small strip of land there is a Jewish state, there is a Palestinian people, there is no easy solution," he said in a speech to an audience of 300 members of the United Jewish appeal.

But, in his 25-minute speech, Mr. Peres reiterated Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, the main point of disagreement between Israel and President

Mubarak's proposals.

Mr. Peres' chief rival in the bipartisan government, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, was more sharply critical of Mr. Mubarak's peace moves in an Israeli Radio interview broadcast Saturday. He said that Egypt was only trying to improve relations with Jordan and the PLO and he dismissed Mr. Mubarak's efforts as a movement away from peace.

Mr. Shamir said earlier in the week that he believed Mr. Mubarak would try to convince Washington to reverse its policy of not speaking with the PLO.

Mr. Shamir's Likud Party is committed to maintaining Israeli occupation over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rana Centre ??



# Numeiri: Muslim group plotting coup in Sudan

**KHARTOUM (Agencies)** — President Jaafar Numeiri said Sunday a Muslim group was plotting a take-over in Sudan and he promised measures to foil it.

Mr. Numeiri, broadcasting on Omdurman Radio, did not name the group or a foreign power which he said was arming it.

But a crackdown appeared likely against the Muslim Brotherhood, formally banned as a political party but influential in government in the months just after Mr. Numeiri introduced Sharia (Islamic Law) in September 1983.

Mr. Numeiri said the unidentified subversive group appeared publicly under such names as "Islamic Front" and "Islamic Trend." These are known Brotherhood organisations.

He said the group operated "under the guise of Islam." It was forming "paramilitary formations as brigades and companies" and training students to fight with clubs, stones and iron bars and rid Khartoum University of opponents.

He said documents seized by security forces showed that the group was "seeking to contain the regime and claim credit for the application of Islamic Sharia in Sudan."

Although Muslim Brothers appeared to influence Mr. Numeiri's government at the time he imposed Sharia, he has more recently repeatedly accused them of trying to infiltrate government institutions in order to gain power.

He said the group accused Sunday was to blame for recent student disturbances which led to the indefinite closure of Khartoum University.

Libya, with Marxist Ethiopia, has in the past been accused by Mr. Numeiri of subverting his government. He said Sunday that the unnamed foreign power that was helping the alleged subversives "claims to be an Islamic country."

Non-Muslim minorities in Sudan have complained bitterly about Mr. Numeiri's imposition of Islamic Law. Its application triggered a civil war in southern Sudan, where the population is mainly Christian and animist.

The United States, Sudan's largest aid donor, and other Western countries also have expressed concern about the imposition of Islamic Law.

One group with widespread membership among university students is the banned Republican Brothers, which bases its ideology on reinterpreting Islam in a modern fashion and opposing Mr. Numeiri's method of implementation of Islamic Law.

The Republican Brothers' leader, 76-year-old Mohammad Mahmoud Taha, was executed in January after being convicted of heresy and of distributing leaflets opposing Muslim Law. At the time, about 400 people, including several sympathetic student leaders at Khartoum University, were rounded up as a security precaution.



**KHADDAM IN BIKFAYA:** Lebanese President Amin Gemayel (left) walks at his summer presidential palace in Bikfaya, Lebanon, with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam (right). Mr. Khaddam arrived for talks with Lebanese officials to end Lebanon's civil war (AP wirephoto).

## Qatari leader arrives in Turkey

**ANKARA (Agencies)** — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, arrived Sunday on an official visit during which he will discuss the possibility of building a pipeline to carry natural gas from his Gulf state to Western Europe through Turkey, the Foreign Ministry said.

The idea was first mentioned when Turkish Foreign Minister Yigit Cengizoglu visited Qatar last month. He said then the plan to tap Qatar's huge gas reserves was at a preliminary stage.

The Emir's talks with President Kenan Evren, who greeted him at the airport, will also cover bilateral and regional issues including the Iran-Iraq war, officials said.

Turkey's exports to Qatar for the first 11 months of 1984 were worth \$7.7 million while imports from the Gulf state stood at around \$10 million, they said.

The Emir was accompanied by Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Ahmad bin Seif Al Thani and Information Minister Issa Ghanim Al Kawari. He will visit Turkey's Aselsan Military Electronics Factory Monday, go to Istanbul on Tuesday and fly home the next day.

The Emir said in an airport statement: "The promotion of our bilateral relations is not only to the advantage of both countries but also to the good of the Islamic World."

Sheikh Khalifa praised Turkey's approach to what he termed

the problems of the Arab World and said the Islamic World was passing through a critical phase. Solidarity was necessary among the peoples of the Islamic countries, he said.

Arab diplomatic sources in Doha said the visit and talks with Turkish leaders would focus on Qatar's continued efforts to bring the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war to an end.

Turkey, these diplomats noted, has been using its good ties with both warring sides in an attempt to arrange a cease-fire and a negotiated settlement to the conflict. Sheikh Khalifa was quoted as praising Turkey for its good relations with the Arab countries, based on "Islamic bonds."

The Emir lauded Turkey's efforts to close the vast gap between Iraq and Iran, urging the Turkish leadership to carry on these efforts.

Speaking to local newspapers Sheikh Khalifa also said that "my biggest hope is that Turkey's efforts, along with the efforts of the Arab countries and the Islamic states, will succeed in achieving a settlement to this (Iran-Iraq) terrific war."

He warned that a continuation of that war was threatening stability, security and economic conditions of the entire Gulf region. He was obviously alluding to the so-called tanker war, an offshoot of the conflict, that involved air attacks by both Iraq and Iran on Arab and other oil tankers plying Gulf sea lanes.

The Iraqis have vowed to block

Iranian oil exports, as a means of weakening the Persian country's war efforts. And the Iraqis threatened that the Gulf tanker routes be either safe for their own shipping or be "unsafe for all" countries of the region.

Also on the agenda was the Cypriot problem, officials here said, noting that Sheikh Khalifa was concerned mainly because recent efforts by the U.N. secretary general have failed to produce a solution between the Turkish-Cypriots and the Greek-Cypriots in the Mediterranean island state.

Turkey supports the northern sector of Cyprus, while Greece has been backing the Greek-Cypriot part of the divided island.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed hopes the two segments of the Cypriot population would reach a solution acceptable to all, through U.N. mediation.

The island state, he said, is close to the Arab region in the east Mediterranean and its troubles often have "echo in the entire Middle East."

In Ankara, President Evren told the Qatar News Agency in an interview that the visit of Sheikh Khalifa "will consolidate ties of friendship" between Turkey and Qatar.

He said that the Iran-Iraq war was a "factor of instability threatening not merely our region but the whole world as well."

Mr. Evren pledged more efforts in support of peace mediation bids between the warring countries of the Gulf.

## Iraqi port is now hardened by battle

**BASRA (R)** — The city of Basra, Iraq's main port until the Gulf war with Iran broke out in 1980, is now hardened by battle.

The city of one million people lies only 20 kilometres west of the Iranian front lines and the last five days have proved it an easy target for Iranian artillery.

On the first night of shelling last Tuesday, few residents of the city centre took seriously Iran's warnings of renewed bombardments. Within minutes of the first barrage subsiding, a wedding party drove wildly through the streets, singing and laughing from the windows of their cars.

Later, however, the authorities imposed a round-the-clock curfew after Iranian warnings and residents huddled in basements and shelters.

On Thursday alone, shells crashed into the city for more than 11 hours, sometimes landing at the rate of one every 20 seconds.

The shelling of Basra has been part of a spiralling series of attacks on towns and cities by both Iran and Iraq over the last week which appears to have demolished a nine-month-old agreement, sponsored by the U.N., to avoid civilian targets.

The curfew in Basra was lifted on Friday and residents emerged cautiously only to face renewed Iranian artillery fire which killed at least seven people and wounded 30.

One of those who ventured out on Friday, listless after so long underground, was a nine-year-old boy called Wafiq, keen to get back on his bicycle. Now he is in the city's teaching hospital with shrapnel in his stomach.

A 21-year-old woman, Munahha Hani, also suffered stomach wounds. She told reporters her car took a direct hit as she sped home from work in oilfields north of the city.

Also in the hospital is Taghrid Abdul Qadir, a 15-year-old girl who told reporters three of her friends were killed and seven wounded when a shell hit their neighbourhood shortly after Friday prayers.

An Iraqi photographer told Reuters he happened upon the decapitated body of a woman, a scene so grisly that he could not bring himself to take a picture.

As the tit-for-tat attacks continue, residents have learned when to expect an Iranian barrage. Hotel managers warn their guests to take cover whenever the radio news reports that Iraq has launched attacks on Iranian targets, knowing Iranian retaliation is likely.

Civil defence sirens wail in warning.

A trip round the city on Thursday evening, after some of the worst shelling, indicated that damage was not heavy in the centre. Officials said suburbs closer to Iranian lines, however, had suffered widespread destruction.

Even when the shelling stops, there are reminders everywhere that this is a city at war.

At a busy intersection, a two-storey building has been converted into a Museum of the mar-

tyrs of the Persian aggressive shelling.

A hodgepodge collection of war memorabilia such as dramatically-arranged pieces of shrapnel or twisted automobiles stand on concrete pedestals.

As in most Iraqi cities, pictures of President Saddam Hussein adorn every other business establishment and street corner.

But while other cities depict the leader in neat business attire or crisp military uniform, Basra displays large posters of Mr. Hussein ready for battle, wearing a combat helmet and battle fatigues, a pistol at his side.

**Ghost towns**

In Iran every day as dusk approaches, the residents of towns and cities in southern Iran pack up their most precious belongings and take to the fields or outlying villages.

Reached by telephone, residents of towns within range of Iraq's devastating surface-to-surface missiles and marauding bombers say houses are empty by nightfall.

Khorramabad is now described as a ghost town by night. Residents of the steel and oil city of Ahwaz, also on the list of 30 targets Iraq has threatened to attack, said many people move outside the city limits before dark and pitch tents for the night.

In Dezful, a city bombarded by nearly 140 long-range Iraqi missiles since the war erupted in 1980, people are well accustomed to attacks. They take to sturdy cellars or do-it-yourself shelters.

Even so, 19 residents of Dezful have been killed in the past six days, according to the Iranian media. Newspapers have carried photographs of whole rows of houses demolished and deep craters pockmarking the dust-covered roads.

"People are worried," a bank official in Ahwaz told Reuters by phone. "If they have the money to get out, they go. Only those who cannot afford it stay behind and they know they can expect death."

Residents listen to Baghdad Radio to see whether they are to be among Iraq's next targets. He said: "But sometimes Iraq says it is going to hit Ahwaz, and then does not."

Iraq also appears to have switched from night raids to daylight attacks to catch residents after they have returned to work in urban centres.

An Ahwaz doctor said the rush to get out started several days ago. Few patients show up now at his surgery but he said he was staying on.

Government officials and Muslim leaders have urged residents to stick it out.

Revolutionary and spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said Saturday Iraqi attacks would have no effect on the will of Iranians to continue the war.

But while many residents have fled the south, the rush appears to have been nowhere as big as during previous escalations over the past four and a half years. If only because most of those who could do so had already left.

## 9 Israeli soldiers killed in suicide blast

(Continued from page 1)

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## Casualties mount in Gulf shelling

(Continued from page 1)

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## Egypt plans to attract summer vacationers

**CAIRO (R)** — Egypt has stopped granting licences for new five-star hotels in big cities and is concentrating on building more seaside tourist villages to attract sun-seeking visitors.

Minister of Tourism Wagih Shindt told a press conference Sunday: "The ministry stopped giving licence for any five-star hotels in big cities, the concentration now is on tourist villages and two and three-star hotels" in beach res-

orts. Egypt, despite Mediterranean and Red Sea beaches, does not attract a significant share of summer holiday tourists.

Mr. Shindt said: "Beach resorts are not exploited enough... When the temperature in Western Europe is minus 20 degrees centigrade, it is plus 20 degrees in the Red Sea resorts."

Statistics show that the number of hotels has increased by 240 per

cent since 1974, when the country introduced an "open-door" economic policy. Most of the hotels are in Cairo or the cities where historical monuments are located.

Mr. Shindt said tourism earned Egypt one billion U.S. dollars in 1984 from some 1.5 million foreign visitors but only 25 per cent of this found its way into the banking system, with the rest channelled into the illegal free market.

TV & RADIO	
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b>	21:55 News Summary
<b>MAIN CHANNEL</b>	22:00 Evening Show Cont.
17:00 News Programme	22:00 News Summary
17:10 Cartoons	22:05 Evening Show Cont.
17:30 Children's Programme	24:00 Close down
17:40 Children's Programme	
18:10 Children's Programme	
18:35 Wonderful World of Plants	
19:00 Local Programme on Armed Forces	
19:30 Programme Review	
19:40 News Programme	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:35 Local Programme	
20:45 Arabic Series	
21:45 Tomorrow's Programmes	
22:00 Arabic Series	
23:00 News in Arabic	
23:10 Series Continued	
<b>FOREIGN CHANNEL</b>	
18:00 French Programme	
19:00 News in French	
19:15 Sport Magazine	
19:30 News in Hebrew	
20:00 News in Arabic	
20:30 Duty Free	
21:00 Heart Beat	
21:10 Sorrell and Son	
22:00 News in English	
23:20 The Yellow Rose	
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b>	



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Lawzi, envoy discuss Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi Sunday received the Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan and discussed the Iranian shelling of the Iraqi city of Basra, the effects of such a practice in escalating the war and the consequences for the Arab Nation and the whole region.

## Fayez receives Iraqi ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez Sunday received the Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan for discussions on bilateral and parliamentary relations between the two countries.

## WHO delegation due next month

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Health Organisation (WHO) three-member team is due here at the beginning of April on a seven-day visit to Jordan upon an invitation from the Ministry of Health. During their visit the team and the Health Ministry will make a joint revision and evaluation of the ministry's programmes during the past five years. The two sides will discuss the major policies and trends in the national health development programme and will prepare a Jordanian health programme to be incorporated in the WHO budget for the next period.

## Court sentences embezzlers

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Bassam Mohammad Abdul Raheem to five years imprisonment with hard labour and fined him the sum of JD 5,280 for embezzling public funds by forging official documents. The court also sentenced Helal Salah Suleiman to two and a half years in prison on a similar charge. Mohammad Qasem Khader Derbas received two and a half years imprisonment with hard labour while Fuad Mustafa Hassan Othman was sentenced to one and a half years imprisonment with hard labour for embezzlement. The military governor endorsed the sentences.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday tours a clothes factory managed by a woman after the Queen inaugurated the Consulting Office for Women run by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Amman (Petra photo)

## Development of Lejun to start soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Work on a project for curbing the encroachment of deserts on arable land will start in the Lejun area of southern Jordan by the end of this month, the Ministry of Planning announced Sunday.

The announcement said that the project, expected to cost \$1.680 million, will be financed by Jordan which will pay \$800,000, the Arab Gulf programme for helping United Nations organisations develop schemes and the United

States Agency for International Development (USAID), will each contribute \$400,000 and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will finance \$80,000 towards the scheme.

The project will be carried out on a 50,000 dunum area of land that can be extended to one million dunums in two years' time, a ministry spokesman said.

He said the project entails developing pastures in the area, drilling artesian wells, increasing the

vegetation, organising grazing and encouraging animal husbandry projects, especially stockbreeding with the purpose of developing local communities and curbing the emigration of Jordanians from rural to urban regions.

The project, which is designed to help stem desertification in Jordan, will be carried out in cooperation with a number of government agencies in Jordan especially the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

## Jordanian, Arab and American doctors discuss hypertension via satellite

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Medical Services (RMS) Director Major General Da'oud Hanania Sunday stressed the necessity of setting up an integrated national scheme to 'contain' the spread of hypertension.

Speaking to reporters after attending a World net live satellite audio-video teleconference aimed to guide practising physicians and health professionals on latest advances in the care of hypertensive patients and high blood pressure control.

Dr. Hanania said: "Estimated figures show that about 15 per cent of Jordan's population have hypertension in one way or another, and this pilot via-satellite connection with international pioneering doctors gave us the opportunity to be acquainted with the latest anti-hypertension adv-

ances. He emphasised the need to assess the volume of hypertension on all levels and in its preliminary stages, especially among children. "To control this disorder, people must undertake blood tests twice a year."

The live press conference which is sponsored and organised by the United States Information Agency (USIA) connected six prominent American doctors simultaneously with six Arab capitals via audio-video satellite transmission. They discussed and explained subjects on cardiology conduction, community health in addition to hypertension.

Dr. William T. Friedwald, Dr. Nemat O. Borhani, Dr. Elmor Cordey, Dr. Robert Tarazi and Michael Debakey also responded to doctors' inquiries in Jordan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Morocco, Kuwait and Bahrain.

## National specialists

The Jordanian participants represented by Dr. Hanania, Dr. Fu'ad Keilani both from the private sectors and Brigadier Abdullah Al Hiani from the RMS together with their counterparts, tackled in their question, the means and measures to curb hypertension in a relatively hot climate of the Gulf area, the treatment of children with blood pressure problems, means of conducting a public survey of blood pressure patients and the evaluation of hypertension and other risk factors accompanying the disorder.

Attending this event, the first of its kind in Jordan, were doctors representing the Ministry of Health, the private sector, the King Hussein Medical Centre and the RMS who received information dealing with the escalating number of cases of hypertension in the Middle East.

## Queen praises women's advisory centre

## Noor inaugurates BPWC consulting services office

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday inaugurated the Business and Professional Women's Club of Amman (BPWC) Consulting Office for Women and expressed her hope that the new consulting service will serve women in the community who have never been reached or assisted before this project was initiated.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and Radio Jordan, Queen Noor, who is the honorary president of the BPWC, said that the office will serve as an "example or model" in the region. Queen Noor added that "if we are able to develop the efforts of this office, certainly it will expand and reach other parts of the country."

Queen Noor said that the opening of this office is a noble achievement and although the office is just reaching some women in Jordan it is surely an encouragement for Jordanian women.

On the occasion, BPWC President Hind Abdul Jaber said that the BPWC decided to open the office after the business women's club conducted research which proved that the rapid socio-economic change has affected the Jordanian society and left "side-effects on both society and family". Mrs. Abdul Jaber added that the BOFW offers legal social and psychological consultation for women. She said that the office's future plans include spreading more education and social awareness among working women as well as implementing productive projects. Such productive projects, Mrs. Abdul Jaber added, will benefit Jordanian women, especially since they will act as a source of income. This will in turn raise the standard of working women, their living standard and will aid in increasing the country's economy, she said.

Mrs. Butheina Jardaneh, director of the Consulting Office for Women briefed Queen Noor on the office's projects and social help it has offered to working women. She said that since the office was established in June 1984, it has offered family guidance and counselling to 35 cases with family problems. These cases, she added, included family problems, divorce

and the negative effects of divorce on children and the family in general. As a solution to such cases Mrs. Jardaneh stressed that the civil-status law should be modified in a way to control divorce, multiple wives and alimony.

However, Mrs. Jardaneh said that the office has also dealt with 34 legal cases pertaining to family-relation issues and the execution of the civil-status law, the landlord and tenants law, the labour law and the civil service law.

The Consulting Office for Women has also reviewed 22 psychological problems which included depression, frustration, sadness and various neuroses. These cases, Mrs. Jardaneh added, were referred to voluntary psychiatrists and social counsellors.

She added that 400 women have already sought the office's help in finding new employment and that the office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, has helped in finding jobs for these women.

Moreover, the consulting office has offered productive projects to 43 needy families through which such families are engaged in traditional handicrafts, the production of children's toys and the office's project for food pro-

cessing in the Ghor region.

Mrs. Jardaneh added that Consulting Office for Women has also helped 12 needy families by paying their house rents, food and through buying sewing machines which could help these families earn a living.

Mrs. Jardaneh added: "The Consulting Office for Women should be supported in order that we are able to expand our services through opening other consulting office in the Kingdom."

After the inauguration ceremony, Queen Noor toured the Consulting Office for Women where she saw an exhibition of products from the office's family production project which included pickles, marmalade, traditional embroidered bedouin dresses and children's toys produced by the families who are benefiting from these projects.

Queen Noor then visited the Jordan Clothing Company (JCC), which is an example of a company managed by a woman, Mrs. Suhaila Maqadha, JCC's director, in her welcoming speech said that Jordanian working women have proved themselves in their work and business and have shown a high standard of efficiency through their work. Queen Noor toured the factory and was briefed by Mrs. Maqadha on the production process.

Attending the inauguration of the Consulting Office for Women were Dr. Jawad Al Anani, the minister of trade and industry, Mr. Mohammad Ali Wardam, under-secretary at the ministry of labour and social development, Mrs. Ahmad Obeidat, Mrs. In'am Al Mutli, Queen Noor's consultant and members of the Jordanian Women's Federation.

## IDECO endorses electrification plan

IRBID (I.T.) — A five-year plan endorsed by the Irbid District Electricity Company (IDECO) envisages the electrification of numerous villages in Irbid Governorate and improvements to the city's underground electric cable network and those of Ramtha, Jerash, Mafrqa, Ajloun, Al Husun and Sarih.

IDECO Director General

Abdul Ra'uf Al Sheikh said that 13 of these villages will be supplied with electricity within a project financed by a British loan. The JD 900,000 project will be completed in the coming year. Also, 37 other villages will be supplied with electricity in the governorate through a project financed by Soviet and World Bank loans at the cost of JD 2.5 million.



THE HONG KONG EXPERIENCE: A Jordanian delegation representing the local press and tourist offices has returned home from a familiarisation trip to Hong Kong, organised by the Gulf Air airline office in Amman. During the week-long visit the delegation members were taken on a tour of the islands around the Chinese mainland and were acquainted with various tourist and cultural activities.

## West German survey throws light on copper smelting history, activities in the Feinan area

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Archaeologists and historians have long known that the Feinan area, in the Wadi Araba south of the Dead Sea, was an important ancient copper mining and smelting site that was exploited as early as the Middle Bronze Age, about 4,000 years ago. But information about the extent and chronology of the ancient exploitation of the Feinan copper deposits had always relied on cursory impressions, gleaned from short visits or quick surveys.

Our knowledge of Feinan's ancient history has been greatly enhanced recently by "The Feinan Archaeometallurgical Survey of Ancient Mining and Smelting Sites in the Feinan Area". This project of the German Mining Museum at Bochum, in West Germany's Ruhr district, is headed by Dr. Andreas Hauptmann.

After a brief exploratory season in 1983, the first full season of surveying in late 1984 showed that copper mining and smelting at Feinan started as early as the Chalcolithic period (around 4300-3200 B.C.). The copper industry also continued during the Early and Middle Bronze ages, the Iron Age, and the Persian, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic eras.

Not only has the German survey pushed back the earliest known exploitation of the Wadi Araba ores, it also revealed a much larger scale ancient copper mining industry than had ever been previously imagined.

Dr. Hauptmann and his mineralogist/metallurgist colleague Dr. Hans Gert Bachmann both believe the Feinan copper industry was far larger in scale, and regionally more important, than other known copper mining/smeltering sites in the area, notably the Timna mines on the west side of the Wadi Araba, and perhaps also the Bir Nasib mines in the Sinai.

They identified at least 20 sites where copper smelting took place, the two biggest being at Feifeh, and at the nearby ruins of Khirbet an-Nahhas ("the copper ruins", in Arabic).

## Early surveys

Of the several travellers who had earlier visited Feinan and identified the ancient mining activity, the first was the German scholar Alois Musil, in 1898. Another German scholar, Fritz Frank, inspected the site in 1934, to be followed the next year by the American biblical archaeologist Nelson Glueck.

Yet another German, Hans Dieter Kind, surveyed the area in 1966 for the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority, and he estimated there some 200 ancient mines in the Feinan region.

The Bochum Museum project aims to find all the mining and smelting sites mentioned by the previous travellers, establish a complete chronological sequence for, and determine the extent of, mining and smelting in antiquity, and reconstruct technological developments in ancient metallurgy.

The Feinan copper deposits, covering an area of nearly 30 square kilometres, are of two main types:

— A very high-grade copper ore, intergrown with manganese minerals, is concentrated in a two-metre-thick horizon that is partly near the surface, but often dips quickly into the mountains.

— A lower-grade ore found throughout the area is present in abundance in the white Nubian sandstone formations.

Throughout ancient history, different technologies were developed by successive civilisations to exploit these two kinds of ores.

In the Chalcolithic (4300-3200 B.C.) and Early and Middle Bronze ages (3200-1550 B.C.) large-scale copper production exploited the rich surface ores, which were easiest to mine. In the Wadi Khaled area, at least 40 open-pit and underground mines were discovered, and others were clustered around Wadi Rayfeh. The survey team found some of the basal stone picks that were used to extract the raw ore, which was hauled to smelters a few kilometres away.

The large heaps of slag left after the smelting operation attest to both the domestic use, and the presumed large-scale export of copper. Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age smelting facilities were identified at Feinan, Ras en-Naqb, near 'Ain al Fidan and in Wadi Fidan.

At Feinan and Ras en-Naqb, the survey team discovered smelting batteries with up to 12 furnaces in a row. The clay-lined, stone furnaces will be excavated in future seasons, to reconstruct the smelting technology practiced in the Chalcolithic, and Early and Middle Bronze ages.

The obvious question raised by the identification of a large-scale copper industry at Feinan in the Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age is: To what was all the copper being exported?

## Mining periods

The next important period of ancient mining was during the Iron Age, between the 12th and 5th Centuries B.C. Though there was pottery evidence for a human presence at Khirbet an-Nahhas during the Iron Age I period (1200-1000 B.C.), the main mining activity seems to have been during the Iron IIC period (800-586 B.C.).

Because the rich surface ores had been exploited in previous millennia, the Iron Age miners sunk 20-metre-deep shaft mines to underground galleries, where they mined only the veins of high-grade ore buried inside the mountains.

One particularly interesting Iron Age mine in the Wadi Khaled had two identical, adjacent shafts — and a third shaft was sunk next to them during the Roman period.

As was also done in the earlier periods, the Iron Age inhabitants backfilled their mines after use. This was probably done to prevent the collapse of the shafts and galleries, but may also have had religious significance, as was the case at marble mines in the Aegean area.

Mining during the Iron Age was carried out on a massive scale. The remains of between 150,000-200,000 tons of slag heaps were found in the Feinan area, of which about 80 per cent is thought to have come from Iron Age mining activity.

There are also indications that the Iron Age miners recycled the old slag from the Chalcolithic/Bronze Ages. They would crush the old slag with basalt anvils and hammers, collect the small droplets of copper ore, and re-smelt them to extract the small amounts of copper that the earlier inhabitants of the area had not been able to exploit.

The crushed slag was further recycled by being used as temper for pottery that was used for domestic purposes and to line the insides of the smelting furnaces. Some of the crushed slag was also put back into the furnaces as "return slag", to help the smelting process along.

In the Persian period (5th-4th Centuries B.C.), copper smelting activity at Khirbet al-Jaryeh used a different technology from that of the Iron Age. This is evidenced by both the remains of a different kind of smelting furnace, and the typology of the slags.

There is evidence of a Nabataean presence in the area, but little information has been collected to date on the nature or extent of the Nabataeans' exploitation of the Feinan copper deposits.

Large-scale mining and smelting resumed for sure in the Roman era (2nd-3rd Centuries A.D.). A particularly impressive mine at Umm al Amad shows how the Romans dug large underground caves, or "chamber-

pillar" mines. Their roofs were supported by natural rock pillars that were left in place after the mine had been dug.

One well preserved mine at Umm al Amad, in the mountains seven kilometres south of Feinan, is 120 metres deep, and 50 metres wide, with scores of 2.2-metre-high pillars holding up the roof. Other Roman mines were found at Wadi Rayfeh.

The Romans found most of the good quality ores already exploited by the earlier inhabitants of the area. To reach the same high-quality copper ores mixed with manganese, they would have had to sink shaft mines several hundred metres deep. Instead, they went after the leaner, non-manganese ores, which required more sophisticated smelting techniques. They had to bring in manganese from elsewhere, to use as flux that was mixed with the leaner ores during smelting.

## Roman shafts

The Romans sunk a third shaft next to the double shafts of the Iron Age mine at Wadi Khaled. This Roman shaft has been identified from coins and pottery, and metal chisels which exactly fit the chisel marks in the shaft and the steps leading down to it.

As in the Iron Age, the Romans mined and smelted on an industrial scale, to judge by the estimated 40,000 tons of slag at Roman period smelting sites.

Mining and smelting activity around Feinan declines rapidly after the Roman period. There is evidence for small-scale smelting during the early Islamic and medieval periods at Al Fur, Feinan, 'Ain al Fidan and probably in the Wadi Dana. Large amounts of copper droplets, or "prills", were found inside buildings next to slag heaps at Al Fur ("the oven", in Arabic), possibly indicating an ancient foundry workshop exploiting copper ores at the site.

A particularly intriguing problem that the Bochum Museum team hopes to resolve in future seasons is where the ancient inhabitants of the area obtained the enormous amounts of fuel required for smelting on such a large scale. Dr. Hans-Gert Bachmann believes the fuel could only have come from charcoal derived from trees in the area. One of the hypotheses he is considering is that the extensive deforestation that must have taken place to secure



Standing remains of Byzantine at Feinan

the firewood have depleted the available trees: this, in turn, would have ruled out extensive mining and smelting for long intervals, during which the forests would have had a chance to replenish themselves.

The smelting process required intense heat of 1200 degrees Centigrade to melt the copper ores. This produced pure, molten copper, and left behind the enormous piles of slag that were found throughout the survey area. Some of the slag heaps are up to 12 metres high.

The survey team identified further recycling of ancient industrial wastes in the Roman and Byzantine inhabitants' use of Iron Age slag "cakes" as building materials. Some of the modern bedouin also used the ancient slag cakes to make grave covers.

## Analyses

The West German team was able to analyse some of the ancient slag heaps on the spot, by using a field spectrometer that provided instant analyses of the chemical contents of the slag. It was particularly valuable in showing the slag's copper and manganese contents, vital information to reconstruct the ancient smelting technologies.

Some of the artifacts picked up during the survey are now being

analysed in Germany, using Carbon-14 and thermoluminescence dating methods. These can pinpoint the age of artifacts from the 4th-1st millennia B.C. to within 100-300 years.

The team hopes to return to the Feinan area in a year's time, to continue the survey and start excavating some of the furnaces. One of the positive aspects of the site being located in such a remote area, about 80 kilometres south of the village of Safi, is that it is relatively undisturbed by modern activity. Photographs taken by a German team at Feinan in the 1930s are almost identical with photos taken in the past two years.

The project has been supported by the German Mining Museum at Bochum, the Volkswagen Foundation, and the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology of the Holy Land, Dr. Axel Knauf.

director of the institute's Amman office, accompanied the survey team in the field. Other team members were archaeologist G. Weisberger of the German Mining Museum, and surveyors S. Averbek, J. Heckes and W. Lieder. The Department of Antiquities representative on the project was Emil Masaadeh.

While in the field, the team made use of the camp and some equipment of the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority (NRA). Some of the shafts that the NRA dug in recent years to examine the copper-producing potential of the Feinan area also proved valuable in exposing ancient mining activities (that earlier visitors had missed). The survey team also received the full cooperation of the local residents of the 'Ain al Fidan area, and particularly of its leader, Sheikh Salem Saleem.

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The triple-shaft at Wadi Khaled mine, with two identical shafts from the Iron Age and third from the Roman period.



# Jordan Times

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 The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Engage for peace

THE VISIT to the United States this week of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak should provide fresh signals about Washington's attitude towards the diplomatic activity that has followed the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. We have heard repeatedly that the United States does not feel it should "re-engage" in Arab-Israeli mediation until the parties to the dispute are ready for face-to-face negotiations. This position is politically feeble, and intellectually dishonest.

If the United States feels it can adopt a hands-off policy towards Arab-Israeli peace-making, it should also adopt a hands-off policy to Arab-Israeli war-making, occupation of lands, abuses of human rights and violations of international law — all of which are done on a daily basis by an Israeli state that receives, at last count, something like \$2.5 billion a year in American aid. The fact is, Washington is heavily "engaged" in the Middle East, but largely on the side of the Israelis.

For Washington to play the role of the innocent bystander is an astoundingly mediocre performance. The United States, through its political, economic and military policies in support of Israel, is virtually a protagonist with Israel against the Arabs.

Precisely because of this fact, the United States must logically play an important, but not exclusive, role in Mideast diplomacy. The Jordan-PLO accord is not the last word on peace-making. But it is a good and bold move within the context of Arab realism and moderation, and deserves the support of those in the United States who have always asked: Where is the Arab partner for peace?

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: What does Washington say?

BEFORE PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak arrived in Washington for talks on the Middle East with President Reagan, Israel said that it would never agree to a plan for withdrawing from the West Bank under any peace agreement. This statement which was made by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir came as a time-bomb that was meant to undermine all the ideas which President Mubarak was carrying to Washington and to abort any moves to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We wonder if Shamir's statements were not prepared in concert with Washington, which is Tel Aviv's ally and supporter. Unless the United States absolves itself from these statements soon, we are inclined to believe that it has known about them all along and actually timed them to coincide with Mubarak's visit. If Washington carries these views, we wonder why it invited Mubarak to achieve peace.

Shamir's statements were no doubt aimed at foiling Mubarak's moves to explain the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement aimed at establishing a lasting peace and regaining Palestinian people's rights. Shamir wanted to give indications to the Reagan administration that the Zionist state would not give any consideration to any agreement that might be reached between the two presidents in Washington.

Whether Washington will prove capable of honouring its commitments to help bring about peace or not remains to be seen in the wake of Mubarak's talks this week with the American leaders.

### Al Dustour: Iran is responsible

ONE CANNOT but blame Iran for what is happening at the war front with Iraq and for the loss of human life in the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas on both sides. Iran has been rejecting all bids by various world organisations to end the war peacefully and negotiate a settlement and has declared its intention of pursuing the war with Iraq regardless of its results.

This futile and unreasonable decision prompted the Tehran regime also to resort to shelling civilian areas, proving once again that this regime has lost all its cards. The shelling of populated regions in Iraq displays clearly the weakness of the Iranian regime in encountering the Iraqi armed forces in the battlefield. It is a sign of desperation and a move that won Iran further condemnation by world nations.

By escalating the war activities in the Gulf, Iran is aiming at opening the door there for foreign intervention and allowing foreign powers to harm the interests of Arab countries in the region. As we watch thousands of innocent civilians falling on both sides, we appeal to the organisation of Islamic countries to intervene and put an end to the bloodshed and bring peace to the Gulf region.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanon must live in peace

THE PARTIAL Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon has paved the way for the country's leaders to come together in a bid to end their differences and bring a lasting peace to their nation. The Lebanese government has been exerting desperate efforts to achieve this goal assisted by some veteran politicians who are determined to see Lebanon live in peace again.

But as the peace-making process is underway, car bombs are being blown up and clashes between rival factions are being triggered in a drive to abort all efforts for peace. Lebanon has been threatened, invaded, divided and devastated by hostile elements and by its own people who, to date had not been able to reach a formula safeguarding all interests of various groups living in the country.

The leaders of Lebanon should not allow communal violence or clashes among groups to foil attempts to reach peace. They must not permit any pressure to force them to go astray if they want their country to regain self-confidence and move on towards reconstruction. We hope that Syrian mediation and efforts by President Gemayel and other government leaders will yield fruitful results and end the ordeal of the Lebanese people.

## Guest Column

# Who made the Lebanon occupation decision?

By Sa'd Abu Dayyeh

IN THE light of what is happening in Lebanon at present, we wonder if Israel really wants to withdraw from that country, escaping the ever-growing resistance attacks, or whether its current measures are really meant to perpetuate its presence there.

In fact, Israel's ambitions in South Lebanon are deep-rooted and have been known for a long time. They are stated clearly in the memoirs of Moshe Sharett, one of Israel's former foreign ministers in the early 1950s. He said that David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister and his aides like Dayan and Navon had harboured the idea of creating mini-states in South Lebanon under Maronite army commanders who would pave the way for Zionist control of South Lebanon, enabling it to

launch wars on Syria at will. When Begin came to power, he immediately embarked on preparations for an adventure in Lebanon which he originally planned to carry out in 1978 but had to be postponed due to the inopportune regional and international climate.

In 1982, the Arabs were in their worst position, deeply divided and weak, with Egypt out of the way and Iraq deeply involved in the Gulf War. This provided Begin with a good chance to launch his adventure, and at the same time deal a heavy blow to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The invasion was designed in the first place to achieve Israel's ambitions in Lebanon, at a time when the United States was providing the Zionist state with unlimited financial, military and economic aid. When

the invasion took place, Lebanon was without its strong and veteran leaders like Tony Frangieh, the son of former President Sleiman Frangieh, and leader of the Matwites in the north, Kamal Jumblatt, leader of the Druze, the Shiite leader Musa Al Sadr in the South and the veteran and well-seasoned leader Rimou Iddeh.

Only Bashir Gemayel was there, and he was no obstacle to the Israelis who embarked on their adventure with self-confidence. This confidence was further corroborated when it was discovered that Lebanon was left alone in the field to face the invasion...

Israeli reports at the time spoke of Begin's hopes and dreams to see "Greater Israel" being formed before he dies, and by invading Lebanon, he

thought he would fulfil these dreams. But Begin was disappointed when Lebanon and the Palestinians held out. Begin's dreams were dashed when he saw no greater Israel, but instead, heard of reports about his troops falling in great numbers. He discovered that the "Peace for Galilee" campaign did not bring peace to him and that the invasion was making it more costly for Israel everyday. Their dream has become a nightmare...

Yitzhak Shamir, who was foreign minister at the time, refused to help Begin in his ordeal and refrained from taking any decision on the withdrawal from Lebanon. Perhaps he was saving the way for Begin to fall so that he could take over the government. On

the whole, Begin's fate was no better than that of Anthony Eden of Great Britain who had to resign as prime minister following the failure of the tripartite aggression on Egypt in 1956. Begin soon resigned and no more was heard about him in Israel or abroad. He had paid the price for his little adventure in Lebanon. An American magazine said of him: Begin, who used to acquire 80 per cent of a conversation's time leaving his audience with 20 per cent has now changed positions, and his share is limited to 20 per cent.

When his Foreign Minister Shamir came to power, he inherited a heavy duty and an empty treasury, since all the money had been spent on financing Israel's invasion in Lebanon.

His successor Shimon Peres, who fought hard to assume power, has been advocating the withdrawal and based his election campaign on this issue.

Once in power, Peres immediately embarked on preparations for withdrawing Israel's forces from Lebanon. The first phase of the pullout is now over, but the Israelis are deeply bogged down in Lebanon that it is very hard to see them go in accordance with their declared plans. Their withdrawal to the new frontlines gives them time to breathe and to launch new repressive campaigns against the local people. Thus Israel's complete withdrawal from South Lebanon is something that we have to wait and see.

## One who fell out of step

By Philip Geyelin

WASHINGTON — Nothing is more heart-rending than the cry of a disenchanted true believer in the Ronald Reagan of yesterday — if you counted yourself among them. But if you were not of that persuasion, there is also quite a lot that is heartening in an article in the year-end issue of Foreign Affairs by Norman Podhoretz. It is an emotional experience and a rewarding intellectual exercise.

Mr. Podhoretz is the prestigious editor of Commentary magazine, the literary home port of neo-conservatism. This is a cult largely composed of prominent, fallen-away Democrats who though back in 1980, as Mr. Podhoretz puts it, that they had discovered in Ronald Reagan (a former Democrat) "a more legitimate heir to the mainstream democratic tradition in foreign policy — the commitment to containment (of Communism) running from Truman through Kennedy, Johnson and the late Sen. Henry Jackson."

And Mr. Podhoretz was pleased with the original thrust of Reagan policy: the avoidance of arms control negotiations that might have "jeopardised" the buildup necessary to redress the U.S.-Soviet balance of military power. He like the way Mr. Reagan went about rekindling America's patriotic spirit in the interest of restoring confidence "in the utility of military force as an instrument of worthy

political purposes." He applauded Mr. Reagan's reinstitution of the East-West ideological conflict as the centerpiece of U.S. policy concern — in contrast to the pre-occupations of his predecessors with geopolitical power-balancing or superpower rivalry.

So what's his gripe? That the pure conservatism of Ronald Reagan, as private citizen, has given way to, God help us, the practical political imperatives imposed on a president.

Detente, as practised by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, never lived up to Mr. Podhoretz's hopes. Now, it is Mr. Podhoretz's fear that in his second term, Mr. Reagan, "overwhelmed by the pressures of the political present, and perhaps lured by seductive fantasies of what historians in the future might say of him as a peacemaker... seems ready to embrace the course of detente wholeheartedly as his own."

Warning signs, as Mr. Podhoretz sees them, are everywhere in the record. Economic pressures are a key part of the linkage essential to "hard-headed" detente. "Yet the enormous irony is that in the economic sphere, Ronald Reagan, the great critic of detente... did not even measure up to the standards of toughness required by Mr. Nixon's theory."

Having promised linkage, the unlinked Jimmy Carter's grain embargo from the grand scheme of U.S.-Soviet relations. He caved

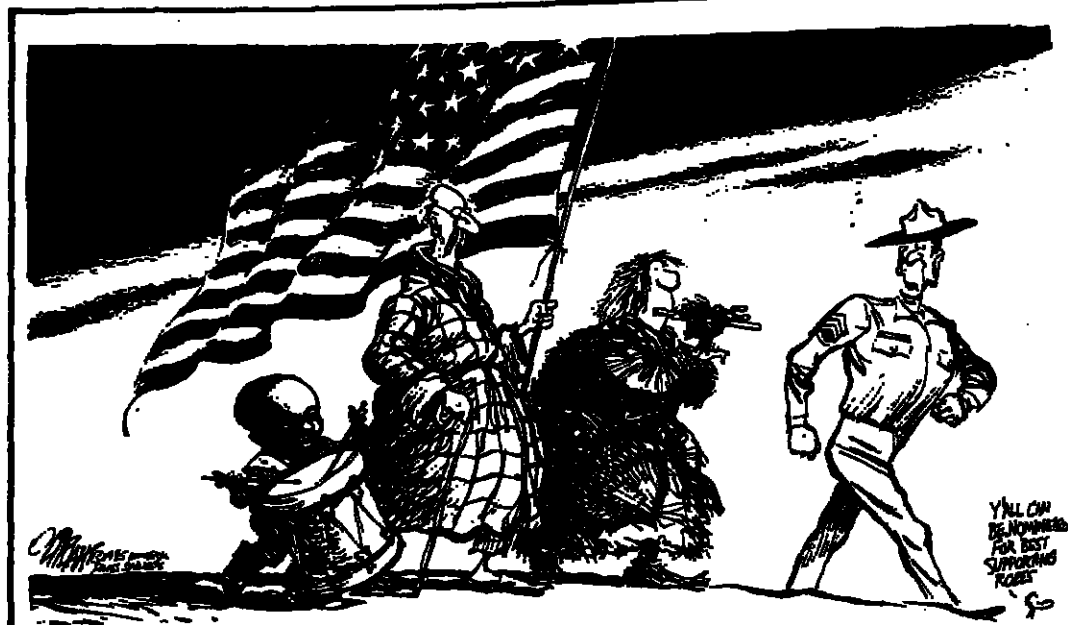
in on the Siberian natural-gas pipeline to Western Europe out of some misguided concern for "alliance solidarity." He would not even bring economic pressure on Poland by declaring the Poles in default on their Western loans.

Mr. Reagan hailed the Afghanistans "freedom fighters," but did not do nearly enough to help them. Mr. Podhoretz complains. Mr. Reagan is excused for not toppling the Marxist Sandinist regime in Nicaragua — but only because Congress got in his way.

But Mr. Reagan was not even as bold as John Foster Dulles (for whom Mr. Podhoretz has a low regard as a risk-taker) in Lebanon. Worse, "in spite of all the talk about retaliation that came from the Reagan administration, and despite the high priority it had always given to combating international terrorism, when those Marines were attacked by terrorists, the United States did nothing."

Mr. Podhoretz grants that under Mr. Reagan, "America was back — in at least the sense that it would no longer passively acquiesce in the achievement of an irreversible military superiority by the Soviet Union." But he fears it has not been prepared, as it was 20 years earlier under John F. Kennedy, to "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend."

The truth is, of course, that Mr. Kennedy himself was not prepared to live by that inaugural rhetoric three months later when he



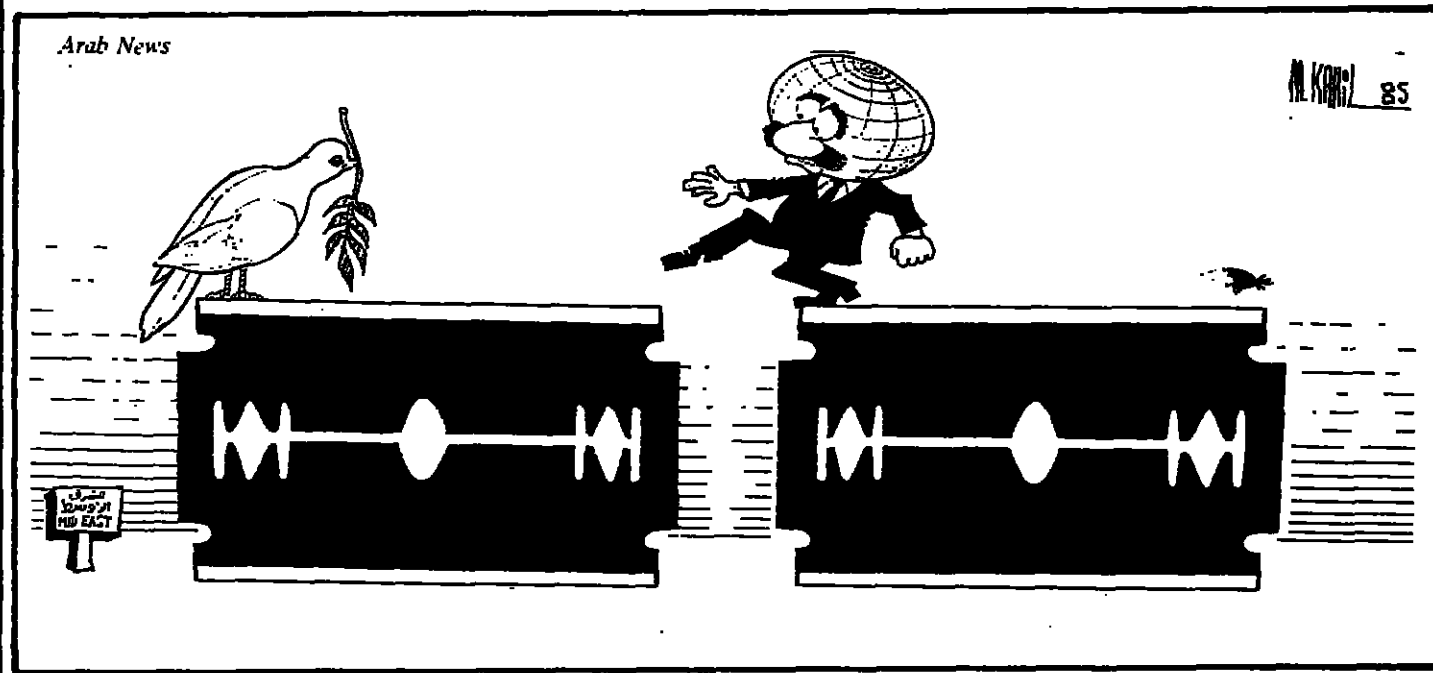
fatally scaled down the U.S. role in the Bay of Pigs. There lies the real flaw in the Podhoretz analysis. His dream is not of a different Democratic Party but of a different day when the United States had overwhelming military superiority, a near-monopoly in nuclear arms.

What Mr. Podhoretz seems to be deploring is that Ronald Reagan, as president has come to recognise the necessity as a practical matter of reconciling his old ide-

ology with the new realities. Mr. Podhoretz sees Mr. Reagan moving not only towards arms control but maybe even broader accord with the Russians on the rules of East-West engagement. He sees the president headed towards a deal in Central America, accepting a Communist Nicaragua in exchange for something rather like the prescriptions of the Contadora countries. If he should "move in this direction, he will cruelly disappoint those of us who once hoped that he might lead the

Republican Party into assuming a responsibility for resisting Soviet imperialism that he himself had so often and justifiably attacked the Democrats for no longer wishing to carry."

And so he might. But that would not be too heavy a price to pay for those of us who believe that if Ronald Reagan should move in the direction Mr. Podhoretz so deplors, he would be on the right track — The Washington Post.



## Pressure for political asylum grows

By Bertrand Le Gendre

LAUSANNE — European governments are becoming increasingly wary about political refugees. Once accepted with open arms in certain countries when they were fleeing from dictatorships, such refugees are now coming up against greater difficulties in obtaining entry. It is there still time to do something about it?

The Swiss Human Rights League is convinced there is and organised a "European conference on the right of asylum" from February 15 to 17 in Lausanne, at which 300 prominent people and representatives of associations engaged in working for political refugees decided to coordinate their efforts in an attempt to stop the degradation of the right of asylum.

The refugee's situation is all the more critical as their numbers are steadily increasing. There are said to be over 15 million of them all throughout the world, fleeing famine, civil strife, economic crises and conflicts between states, though it is still not possible to draw a line between political refugees and economic refugees.

Given this situation, European governments have hardened their position. On the grounds of halting the rising tide of economic refugees, they are trying to dis-

courage political refugees. Measures of this sort have already been taken, or will shortly be taken, everywhere. In 1982, 81.1 per cent of the persons entering the Federal Republic of Germany claiming to be refugees were denied admission. Denmark comes next, with 48.7 rejections, followed by Belgium (45 per cent), France (44.7 per cent), Great Britain (33.9 per cent) and Switzerland (25 per cent).

West Germany is the country which has taken the most dissuasive measures to the point that it has brought down upon itself the wrath of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Candidates seeking the right of asylum are herded into camps with little or no amenities. They are banned from looking for work for a period of two years and are not entitled to social security benefits. The result is that many of them ultimately decide to chance their luck in another country, which is the object of the exercise.

New screening processes were set up in Switzerland last spring again for the purpose of discouraging persons seeking political asylum. Since the introduction of this reform, the number of applicants is said to have halved in the canton of Geneva.

It is now the turn of Denmark and Sweden, which so far had been fairly liberal towards refugees, to take dissuasive measures. The first to suffer from the change of policy have been Iranians and Iraqis fleeing the Gulf war, who had until now been relatively well received in these two countries.

Generally regarded as one of the countries most favourable to refugees, France is also getting ready to take similar measures, through a sort of knock-on effect. The moment certain states raise barriers at their frontiers, the others are tempted to follow suit or be overwhelmed by requests for asylum.

Organisations battling to preserve the right of asylum are all the more concerned by the trend as Europe's share of the refugee burden is quite small. Far from the world's crisis points and poverty zones, Europe takes only five per cent of the world's refugees registered as such. And even so, the effort is very unequally spread around. Switzerland has one refugee per 150 inhabitants, Austria one per 246, France one per 360, Great Britain one per 390, Sweden one per 416, Italy one per 423, Belgium one per 476 and West Germany one per 616 (January 1983 figures).

These are very low figures compared with three countries which are taking in refugees — Somalia (one per seven inhabitants), Sudan (one per 32) and Pakistan

(one per 34).

Testimony provided at the Lausanne conference shows that the causes of this stiffening are the same everywhere. In all the countries, persons seeking refugee status are accused of stealing jobs, when they are not quite simply equated with terrorists. A resurgence of xenophobia is making the job of organisations working for refugees especially difficult, particularly as such charges are not always unwarranted.

Can the trend be reversed? Some of these organisations are convinced it can be done and believe it is possible to wage a campaign in favour of political and economic refugees. Others plan to keep the refugee status in its original form. The 1981 Geneva Convention lays down that refugee status can be granted only to someone who is "persecuted" in his own country because of his race, religion, nationality, membership in a specific social group or political opinions.

Some of the conference participants considered that attempting to include in this category persons fleeing famine and poverty are likely to weaken the right of asylum even further, while conceding that such political persecution stemming from poverty and underdevelopment often calls for the same solutions — Le Monde.

## Economic woes seen to sap Mexican 'left'

By Stephen Addison  
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Heroes of the left, from Karl Marx to Che Guevara, get high exposure on the streets of Mexico City, but leftwing parties seem to be losing ground in the country's economic crisis.

Banners of Marx and Lenin are seen frequently, carried aloft by chanting supporters. And when leftists stage large and resounding demonstrations on the showpiece Paseo de la Reforma, there are images of revolutionaries like Guevara and domestic heroes Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata.

But despite the shouting and slogans protesting at everything from U.S. involvement in Central America to abuse of peasants' rights, many political analysts believe the left is losing support.

The immediate problem for the five main parties that make up the left wing, and which between them account for some 15 to 20 per cent of the vote, is the austerity that now grips Mexico.

"People here don't vote left in a crisis," said Pablo Gomez, secretary general of the United Mexican Socialist Party (PSUM). "Crisis generates fear, insecurity and conservatism. People want to keep their jobs, hang on to what they've got. It doesn't help us at all," he told Reuters.

Since 1982, when Mexico's economic bubble burst and the country was virtually bankrupted, President Miguel de la Madrid has been following a belt-tightening programme under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund.

Prices of food and services have risen, real wages have fallen in the face of rampant inflation, living standards have dropped and unemployment, together with under-employment, is as high as 40 per cent in some areas.

But Mr. Gomez says it is wrong to assume, as might happen in other countries, that Mexico's population will automatically veer to the left because it is economically worse off.

Both in the more affluent and politically-aware north and in scattered areas of the south-east, it is the right-wing National Action Party (PAN) that has been reaping the benefit of economic dis-

content with recent violent demonstrations against the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

And it is the PAN, a hitherto insignificant party which has never won even a senatorial seat in its 46-year history, that is set to provide what could be the first real challenge in 56 years to the PRI in state elections on July 7.

Analysts say the left should gain some coat-tail benefit from the high turnout expected in the seven gubernatorial elections but is unlikely to make major gains until it resolves its internal problems.

The main left-wing parties are now making efforts to stop mutual squabbling. But under the constitution they cannot form electoral alliances and still claim their allotted share of seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

In recent weeks there has been much talk of joint programmes but these have been tentative. Characteristically, opinion is divided on why the left should not be stronger.

Heberto Castillo, 56-year-old founder of the newest party, the Mexican Workers' Party, and one of the left's most charismatic figures, told Reuters the answer lies in the message the movement conveys.

"All the other leftist parties spend their time theorising or talking about causes like Cuba and Nicaragua which most people care nothing about," he said. "They're promising the earth but not communicating on the domestic issues which affect people's lives."

"People think this country's in such a mess we might as well try and bring about change through the right," said Mr. Castillo.

Along with other leftist analysts, he also feels the nature of the PRI itself is a fundamental obstacle to the left.

Mr. Castillo and Mr. Gomez agree that this administration, headed by foreign-educated technocrats under Mr. De la Madrid, is one of the most conservative ever in Mexico.

But Mr. Gomez said this conservatism, shown in the government's strict monetary policies and what he called its greater willingness to use repression against political dissent, is in itself distasteful to Mexicans and a help to the left.



Crossed Wires

# Late but still due media reassessment of Arabs

IN THE following article, published by the London - New York - based Voice of the Arab World His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan examines the Western world's press and the Arabs and proposes a new approach:

LOOKING BACK over the last four decades, the Middle East stands out as having been more consistently and more thoroughly ensnared in great power politics than any other part of the non-Western world. Unremittingly caught up in multilateral superpower politics, the region and its people have been at the centre of one of the most charged conflicts in recent human history. Interpretations of this conflict have been manifold and frequently erratic and contradictory. Its nature and substance, duration and effects have been the subject of close scrutiny and have provided a vast range of topics for analysts, academics, politicians, commentators, leader writers and news reporters the world over. Facts have become mixed with fiction, right with wrong and what has emerged is a grim picture, often distorted and depicting the indigenous people of the region in the most unacceptable terms.

Sadly, this conflict has generated ill-feelings and misunderstandings not only between those directly involved, namely the Arabs and the Israelis, but also between the Arabs and the West. It is encouraging, however, to witness a growing realisation by many on both sides of the need to re-examine the root causes of this lack of understanding.

Never in human history has society been more media-oriented than it is today. The last three decades have seen a revolution in the methods of news-gathering, dissemination and analysis. Suddenly we can all become each other's neighbours, with everything that implies, to be enriched, influenced and irritated by each other. As a result, the media bears a heavy responsibility not only as regards the factual reporting of news but as a powerful influence in the shaping of public opinion on any contested issue in the international arena. By opening up the way for exchanges of values, information and propaganda of unparalleled impact, the media has introduced a new dimension to international affairs which was virtually unknown in the diplomacy of by-gone days.

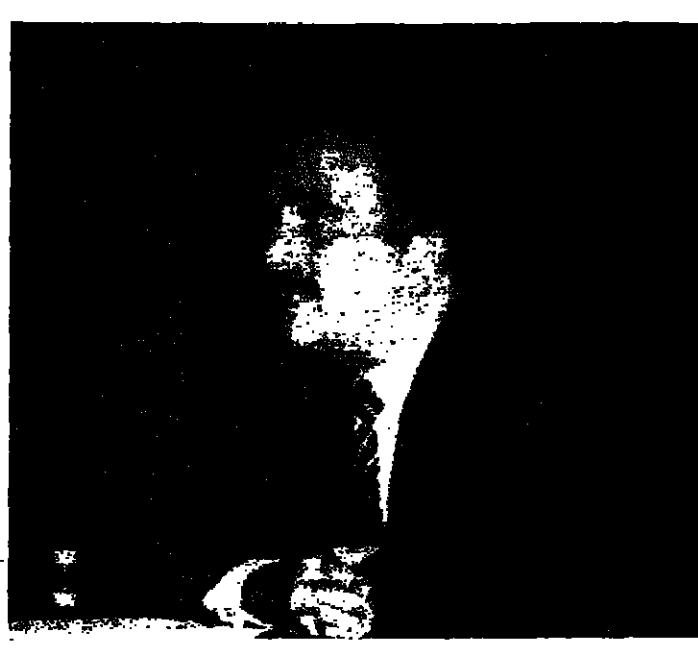
No region in the world has been more affected by transition, from classical diplomacy to one dictated by a new world order, than the Middle East. The role of the

media has been instrumental in moulding and, sadly, on occasion, in twisting or distorting the West's view of the Arab Middle East: its people, heritage, culture and religion. Speaking first and foremost as an Arab and a Jordanian, I feel that the picture painted in the Western media of our region, achievements and aspirations has often been one-sided and one-dimensional. Indeed, I believe it has often been hostile, based upon distortion and a lack of knowledge, conscious or otherwise, of us as a people. It is only recently that the West has taken an active interest in trying to rediscover what constitutes the modern Arab.

Naturally, no one side can be held wholly responsible. Media, as has been said before, is a two-way street and while consistent misrepresentation by the Western media is a fact of life, we Arabs cannot continue to lay the blame for such misrepresentation entirely on others.

Crucial to any analysis of relations between the West and the Arab World is a realistic concept of the historical interaction between these great nations and the dominant forces which have led to the formulation of their opinions and perceptions of each other. Latent perceptions and in-built hostility have coloured the way in which the Arabs and the West viewed each other from their earliest contact until the present day. We can identify three major sources for the West's distorted image of our people. First there was the anti-Islamic ideology of the Middle Ages which found its full expression in the Crusades; then there was the racialism of the imperialist age and the anti-Arab propaganda of the Zionist movement which followed hard on its heels, and last, regrettably, is the behaviour of the Arabs themselves, which has often contributed to reinforcing their negative image.

Today, the obstacles to a better understanding between both peoples, based on the principles of mutual interests and respect, should not seem insurmountable. Unfortunately, however, the road towards achieving that objective has proved extremely rocky as a result of Zionist antagonism and the imposition of the expansionist Zionist scheme on Arab land and Arab rights.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Political Zionism has always been keenly aware of the power of the media. After all, it was through the work of a journalist, Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, that it became a cause celebre in the West. Skillfully exploiting Western fears and anti-Arab prejudices, the Zionists harnessed the power of the media, stopping short of nothing to further their ends.

What followed was one of the saddest chapters in modern international relations. Arabs were portrayed in a manner which made their contribution to humanity, their hopes and aspirations, their place in history and their sense of dignity, shrink into irrelevance. They were dehumanised and portrayed as outcasts. It was in the United States in particular, that the anti-Arab campaign was most concentrated. There the media assumed a more influential role at an earlier stage than elsewhere and with the power of television, was able to effectively direct public opinion. Strongly influenced by Zionists, the media slant was hardly ever objective.

The resulting campaign against the Arabs managed to silence voices of moderation within the media itself. Certainly there were conscientious individuals who tried to oppose the accepted opinion of the day, to allow the facts to speak for themselves and to right this injustice, but they were rapidly labelled, as anti-Semitic and became easy victims of the guilt-ridden nations of the West with regard to the Jewish experience. The conscience of the

Western media should discard the emotionally-laden stereotype in favour of a more balanced and objective view of a world, which though they can only perceive dimly, they can surely learn to respect. The "North-South" dialogue could thus be extended into the arena of informatics. If we are to make any progress on the two principal issues of our time — the conflict of man against man and of man against nature — we can no longer afford to stimulate a highly cynical public with half-truths and an equally highly indigestible regimen of international perceptions. My proposal would then be for a modest step in promoting regional informatics systems, making full use of advanced satellite technology. These would serve as sub-systems for a larger international network, which would certainly be a conduit for the international press, but would be sustained, and somewhat humanised, by a two-way flow of information which is unbiased and undiluted by the exigencies of sensationalism or pressures of deadlines. In this endeavour governments can play a part, but equally non-governmental organisations should take a decisive lead. One example of that is the Arab Thought Forum which was established in Jordan three years ago. The Forum's objectives centre around developing contemporary Arab thought with regard to basic issues facing the Arab World, and its relations with the developing world as well as the international system. In an attempt to have the best of both idealism and practicality can jointly offer, the Forum relies on both intellectuals and policy-makers. There is no objective impediment to utilising the resources of such regional organisations in the exchange of information to which I have alluded.

The potential for uncrossing the wires and presenting an objective portrait of world events lies in the hands of the media. Today's journalist represents a real power for freedom and human dignity. What is required is a concerted and cooperative effort to bring understanding between peoples. At issue for the Arabs is whether our voice will be heard, and whether the issues will be presented in a more balanced manner. Through mutual respect for and comprehension of the cultures and values of both the Arab and the Western nations, we can play an active and positive role in achieving understanding, harmonious relations and peace between the international community of states.

For our part we have made a modest beginning in this direction. In a different context I once stated to Arab press audience that "on the whole one does not find the same degree of stereotyping of total societies or cultures in our Press". I was referring then to both political and cultural stereotyping in the Western media. It has always been my feeling that the press, like the rest of us, is not immune to culture influence. Indeed, humanitarian issues lie at the heart of all concern for fairness and decency in intranational discourse. In this spirit I am glad to report that the call for an international order at the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 has resulted in the creation of an independent commission. The concept of the commission is to exchange information on humanitarian issues, broadly defined. But we ought to view this as a long-term process, not an event-oriented activity. At an international level a question one might ask is how the American and European public, with its heavy emphasis on strategy and resources, can view people and their problems, or even hope to consider politics where people matter, unless a reliable source of unbiased information evolves through agreement between like-minded people? Is it not possible to state the formula in simple terms?

We, as Arabs, should move from the value-oriented realm of information to the more objective sphere of informatics, and the

Western media should discard the emotionally-laden stereotype in favour of a more balanced and objective view of a world, which though they can only perceive dimly, they can surely learn to respect. The "North-South" dialogue could thus be extended into the arena of informatics. If we are to make any progress on the two principal issues of our time — the conflict of man against man and of man against nature — we can no longer afford to stimulate a highly cynical public with half-truths and an equally highly indigestible regimen of international perceptions. My proposal would then be for a modest step in promoting regional informatics systems, making full use of advanced satellite technology. These would serve as sub-systems for a larger international network, which would certainly be a conduit for the international press, but would be sustained, and somewhat humanised, by a two-way flow of information which is unbiased and undiluted by the exigencies of sensationalism or pressures of deadlines. In this endeavour governments can play a part, but equally non-governmental organisations should take a decisive lead. One example of that is the Arab Thought Forum which was established in Jordan three years ago. The Forum's objectives centre around developing contemporary Arab thought with regard to basic issues facing the Arab World, and its relations with the developing world as well as the international system. In an attempt to have the best of both idealism and practicality can jointly offer, the Forum relies on both intellectuals and policy-makers. There is no objective impediment to utilising the resources of such regional organisations in the exchange of information to which I have alluded.

We have in fact, engaged in a free exchange of this kind with groups from around the world, including North America, Europe, the Far East and we hope, in the not too distant future, to expand this dialogue to South America.

With an approach such as this the unfortunate UNESCO impasse today could have been avoided. The promotion of like-mindedness demands a creative vision which focusses on compatible building-blocks rather than ideological differences. You may choose to view the concept of regional informatics as one step along this imaginative path.

## Thailand calls its state companies to account, plans shakeup

With Thailand's 65 state companies becoming an increasing burden on the economy, a shakeup is under way. Chris Sherwell, recently in Bangkok, reports that the idea of selling stakes to the private sector is gaining ground.

WHEN A Thai takes a train, bus or plane, turns his tap or light on or tries to telephone a friend, he deals with a state-owned company. The same is true if he arrives at a port or airport, drives on an expressway or even buys a cigarette.

Thailand's 65 state enterprises are also involved in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, trading, banking, insurance and tourism. But recently they have collectively managed to irritate a new and unexpected quarter with their ubiquity — the government itself. The problem is, they are spending money in amounts larger than the central government's own total budget of around Baht 210 billion (\$7.5 billion). Worse, they are running up large deficits. With the government's own deficits far higher than expected this year, public sector finances are coming under serious strain.

The government has been aware of the growing problem for years, but has tended to avoid it. Now, under Somchai Hoontrakul, the powerful finance minister, the country's economic managers seem to be responding. "At least,"

says an independent economist, "the government seems to be acting, pulling together."

Early in February, Mr. Somchai — who recently warned that Thailand faced its first "zero growth" budget in the next fiscal year, starting in October — ordered the responsible government departments to make recommendations within two months for reforming the state enterprises.

The reform plan, which foresees options ranging from closure to privatisation, is a principal element of a larger economic strategy. For the past 18 months the government has been struggling to contain large deficits in its external trade and its current account on the balance of payments, and last November finally devalued the baht by 14.8 per cent.

(EGAT), the Petroleum Authority (PTT) and Thai International Airways became big borrowers and state companies have incurred two-thirds of Thailand's external public sector debt. The country's total debt, including private sector debt, is now put at about \$13 billion and servicing this has become an increasing burden. The overall debt service ratio is above the important 20 per cent mark, and these payments (Baht 44 billion in the current fiscal year) are the largest item in the central government's budget.

This budget, it has emerged in the past couple of months, is running at an annual deficit of Baht 50 billion, well above the Baht 35 billion target. Worse, the state enterprises are likely to notch up a separate deficit of Baht 30 billion. On top of this the better performers — EGAT, the Thai Tobacco Monopoly and the Telephone Organisation of Thailand — are showing signs of decreased profitability.

The biggest loss-maker of all (Baht 971 million in 1984) is the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority which operates the capital's bus system and has been losing money for at least a decade. The second biggest loss-maker (Baht 551 million) is the State Railway of Thailand.

As long as two years ago, the World Bank warned that a resolution of the financial difficulties of both the SRT and BMTA, and also of the metropolitan and provincial water works authorities, was "urgent". The Bank said this could be achieved "through appropriate adjustments of tariffs and improvements in operational efficiency and management."

The government then produced its own comprehensive study in January 1984. This recommended the dissolution of some minor loss-making enterprises and higher tariffs and retrenchments to cut losses in others. It also recommended greater fiscal co-ordination with the central government and a slowdown in government borrowing.

Thailand's numerous major development projects have been a key problem. The government allowed increased levels of foreign borrowing because domestic resources were inadequate, and many projects were carried out by state enterprises. Agencies like the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), the Petroleum Authority (PTT) and Thai International Airways became big borrowers and state companies have incurred two-thirds of Thailand's external public sector debt.

Pressure has since been building for action. It now appears to have been recognised that salaries and wages, the major component of most state companies' operating costs, are inflated, and that there is too much overtime and vast over-manning. Insufficient professional and technical expertise at management levels and a rapid

turnover in management add to the inefficiencies. Beyond this, it is agreed that there should be far greater self-financing of projects and, institutionally, it has been suggested that a national state enterprise committee could be set up to remove state companies from individual ministries in order to make them financially more accountable.

The idea which has gathered most momentum, however, has been to sell stakes in state companies to the private sector in order to give the government more revenue and to make the companies more efficient. Thai Airways, for example, is considering such plans, and "privatisation" has become as much a buzzword in Thailand as in neighbouring Malaysia or Britain. None of this, however, is as easy as it might seem. The state enterprises employ about 250,000 people many of whom are organised in unions. The companies also offer influential political and military figures in Thailand excellent opportunities to exercise powers of patronage. Thus, despite the official resolve, some government ministers are already protesting at the idea of privatisation. Union resistance has begun to surface too. Outright closures may be impossible because of labour objections, and few politicians have wanted to risk raising bus, train, electricity or water tariffs. That said, however, the government has just increased Bangkok bus fares by one-third to two baht, still a low rate but enough to provoke volatile protests. The move appears to be a sign of the government's determination, and may presage similar decisions in other sectors. Certainly the pressure for reform is likely to be maintained by Mr. Somchai, even though he has come under attack domestically for his determined pursuit of austerity. After all, he is one of the guardians of Thailand's well-deserved reputation for financial prudence — and it is that reputation which is being challenged by the way the government deals with the state enterprises — Financial Times news feature.

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The other night, while walking through the lobby of a hotel, I met a friend I had not seen for quite a long time. It even took me time to recognise him because he looked so depressed. I stopped by, greeted him and asked: "So you've come back to Amman?"  
"Yes," he answered, "I have been here for two weeks". And there, since I was worried to see he looked so sad, he explained to me that he had been here for two weeks and all he had were missed appointments. He had come to Amman on appointment and the person he wanted to meet (a wealthy businessman) had only showed up that same day at 7:00 p.m. While the appointment was supposed to be at 10:00 a.m. In the meantime he was all the time waiting at the lobby...  
At this point I interfered and stopped his complaints. "Well, he showed up after all and this is what counts."  
"I do not know if you're like me, but I hate people who nag. This other friend was also telling me that one of his customers usually comes at noon when his appointment is at 10. The excuse he gives is: 'I go by Greenwich times.'"  
And there are others... But let us be logical: A few hours' or even a few days' delay is not the end of the world when the meeting finally takes place. One should not be difficult.

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## McCrory retains WBC crown

**PARIS (R)** — Milton McCrory overcame fellow-American Pedro Vilella to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title on points Saturday night and set up the prospect of an appetising clash with rival champion Don Curry.

McCrory, known as the 'Ice-man', easily countered the limited wiles of U.S. champion Vilella who spent much of the fight either pinned against the ropes or locked in clinches.

It was the first of McCrory's three defenses to go the distance but the judges were in no doubt about their decision.

McCrory said afterwards he planned to fight another American Aaron Pryor, probably in May or June, and then take on World Boxing Association (WBA) Champion Curry before moving up to the super-welterweight division.

McCrory went on the offensive from the start, landing heavy combinations to the head and body.

Vilella, succumbing for the first time in 20 professional fights, drew whistles from a sparse crowd at the Bercy Sports Palace as he retreated to the ropes and became entangled in clinches.

"I was trying to knock him out. I was trying to hit him solid and he grabbed me and wriggled. I was hoping he would grab me by the leg and we'd both fall," McCrory said.

"I really couldn't get through

his gloves so I was trying to hit his body and he was trying to get me inside and then counter punch," added the unbeaten champion.

"I couldn't get off the ropes. I couldn't get my hands off. You want to do it, but your hands won't. I fought a champion. He beat me fair and square," Vilella conceded.

One opponent McCrory does not plan to meet is Pablo Baez of the Dominican Republic, who destroyed France's Gilles Elbilila inside three rounds an hour before

the title fight.

Baez was third choice opponent for Elbilila, grabbing a chance offered barely a week ago to wreck the former European champion's hopes of a rematch with McCrory, his conqueror in Detroit last April.

Baez opened up a gash around Elbilila's left eye in the second round and although the French boxer rallied bravely but briefly in the third he could not delay the end.

Baez, the bigger and stronger fighter, rocked Elbilila with a right and felled him with a left. Elbilila clambered groggily to his feet but, with 27 seconds of the third round still on the clock, the referee declared the bout over.

## Liverpool trounces Barnsley

**BARNESLEY, England (AP)** — Welsh goalscorer Wizard Ian Rush grabbed a second half hat-trick Sunday as English Soccer League Champion Liverpool eased into the semifinal of the F.A. (Football Association) Cup by winning 4-0 at second division Barnsley.

Rush — last season's top scorer in Europe — scored in the 54th, 79th and 83rd minutes with Irishman Ronnie Whelan also netting in the 71st minute.

Barnsley posed few threats to Liverpool, while the League

Champion also created few openings in a goal-less first half. But two strokes of luck after half time put the Merseyside giant on the road to a semifinal place.

In the 54th minute a blunder by Barnsley's goalkeeper, Clive Baker, presented Rush with a simple goal.

Baker fumbled a low right wing cross from Liverpool's Scottish ace Kenny Dalglish and as the ball squirted out from under his body Rush turned it into an empty net.

The second goal was equally lucky as Barnsley defenders twice gave the ball away in dangerous positions.

## Bonn seeks support over European soccer row

**BONN (R)** — The West German government is calling on eight West European countries to support its demands for the inclusion of West Berlin among the venues for the 1988 European Soccer Championship, a government spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said embassies had been ordered to pass on diplomatic notes in the eight countries, setting out Bonn's case and arguing that West Germany should not host the finals if Berlin were excluded.

The European Football Union's (UEFA) Organising Committee has recommended the championship be awarded to West Germany but said West Berlin, which is not recognised as part of the Federal Republic by the Soviet bloc, should not be among the venues.

The decision sparked a political storm in West Germany and the

government has said it wants the national soccer federation to give up the championship if the decision is not changed.

UEFA's executive committee is due to meet in Lisbon on Friday and is expected to endorse the organising committee's recommendation that West Germany be awarded the 1988 finals.

The spokesman said the government's aim was to get friends and allies to put pressure on UEFA to accept Bonn's view, and added: "Our chief aim is to get Berlin included, not get rid of the championship."

West German soccer chief Hermann Neuberg said he will not yield to political pressure from Bonn over the issue and will not try to force UEFA to agree to a West Berlin venue by threatening to drop the championship.

## Mandlikova claims U.S. indoor title

**PRINCETON, New Jersey (R)** — Hana Mandlikova followed her stunning semifinal win over Martina Navratilova with a straight-sets victory over Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden Saturday in the final of the \$150,000 U.S. National Women's Indoor Tennis Championships.

Mandlikova did not exhibit the fire or brilliant shotmaking that brought her the 7-6, 6-0 win over Navratilova Friday night, as Lindqvist earned two service breaks per set.

But the Czechoslovak star, ranked third in the world, took advantage of the 21-year-old Swede's weak serving for a 6-3, 7-5 win in a match that lasted 78 minutes.

Lindqvist was unable to launch the great passing shots that she displayed in beating Wendy Turnbull of Australia and Catherine Tanvier of France in the last two rounds.

Mandlikova, the 23-year-old who two weeks ago beat Chris Evert Lloyd, lifted the level of her game whenever she was in trouble.

"I didn't just hit away and I kept changing the pace," said Mandlikova, who earned \$30,000.

"She never knew if I was going to stay back or come in," Mandlikova added. The 1981 French Open Champion blew a 5-3 lead in the second set before winning on an 11th-game service break and taking the 12th after one deuce.

## India sweeps to one day cricket championship victory

**MELBOURNE (R)** — India underlined the unpredictability of limited overs cricket with another accomplished performance to win the World Championship of Cricket Sunday.

India clinched the one-day tournament when they beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the day-night final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Sunil Gavaskar's team, trounced 4-1 by England in the recent one-day series in India, won all five matches in the so-called World Championship to mark the state of Victoria's 150th anniversary.

India gave Gavaskar an ideal present before he retires as captain after this tournament by sweeping home at 177 for two with 17 deliveries to spare in reply to Pakistan's 176 for nine in their 50 overs.

Accurate and penetrative pace bowling supported by telling contributions from left arm spinner Ravi Shastri and leg spinner Lax-

man Sivaramakrishnan put India in control.

All-rounder Kapil Dev, who captured three for 23 in nine overs, and Chetan Sharma underlined Pakistan in a new-ball burst that reduced Javed Miandad's side to 33 for four.

Miandad, top scorer with 48, repaid the damage in a fifth wicket stand of 68 with all-rounder Imran Khan, who hit 35.

But Sivaramakrishnan, whose three for 35 included Pakistan's captain, and Shastri shackled the lower order sufficiently to ensure India faced a modest target.

Shastri, named Series Champion of Champions, followed up by hitting an unbeaten 63 and shared an opening partnership of 103 in 116 minutes from 170 balls with Krishnamachari Srikanth.

The instinctively aggressive Srikanth, Man of the Match, struck 67. By the time he fell to Imran, Pakistan's best bowler with one for 28 in 10 overs, the result was effectively settled.

Mohammad Azharuddin, India's batting discovery of recent months, treated a 35,000 crowd to glimpses of his talent before he was bowled by fast-medium Tahir Naqqash for 25.

Shastri and Dilip Vengsarkar convincingly completed the job with an unfinished third-wicket stand of 35.

India's success confounded expectations in much the same way as when they won the one-day World Cup in England in 1983.

"The win was important to us," Gavaskar said Sunday. "We have just been through an unfortunate home series where England did not let us perform to our potential. It was up to us to show our followers that we still had a lot of cricket in us."

"In 1983, we beat the West Indians at Lord's to become the World Champions and we always felt we had the measure of Pakistan whom we had beaten earlier."

## Barcelona's 60-year-old wait for Olympic Games may be ending

By Gudrun Greunke

**BARCELONA, Spain** — After 60 years of waiting, the people of Barcelona are confident they will at last host the Olympic Games in 1992 — with a little help from Christopher Columbus.

The Catalan city's socialist mayor Pasqual Maragall told Reuters in an interview he believed Barcelona had the best chance of hosting the 1992 Games, despite bids by Amsterdam, Belgrade, Brisbane, New Delhi and Paris.

Spain is set to make the most of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas. It has also bid to host the Winter Olympics at Granada, where the Spanish court granted its patronage for Columbus' historic voyage in 1492.

Barcelona can expect a sympathetic hearing for its case when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meets to decide as the IOC president is Catalan ind-

ustrialist Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Barcelona has been in the race to stage an Olympics since 1924, but the race has developed into a 60-year marathon since Paris claimed the Games that year.

The cornerstone of the port's 65,000-seat Olympic stadium was laid in 1927.

"The 1936 Games, for which the Olympic stadium was built, went to Berlin because of the Spanish Civil War. For the 1972 Games, clinched by Munich, we built the swimming pool and now we plan to use it for 1992," Maragall said.

A velodrome was opened last year and refurbishing of the Olympic stadium to raise the capacity to 85,000 would complete the necessary facilities, he said.

The city has commissioned Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, who designed the Los Angeles Museum of Modern Art, to build the Olympic Palace and it also plans to erect an Olympic village in a depressed seaside slum area.

Preliminary estimates put the necessary budget at \$500 million and the Games are conservatively aimed to break even.

The blueprint takes no account of building costs and relies on private investment, the sale of Olympic village flats, a large volunteer workforce and contributions by Spanish state and local government.

Maragall says the city is ready to welcome 200,000 visitors, 15,000 athletes and officials, and around 9,000 journalists.

"Including the Costa Brava to the north, and down to Sitges in the south, we are in an area that

has one of the biggest concentrations of hotels in the whole of Europe," he said.

One possibility being considered by his staff is to lodge the press contingent aboard two or three ocean liners docked in Barcelona port.

The mayor is hoping the Games would start around the end of June, when school holidays would help to ease the chronic traffic jams suffered by the city's three million inhabitants.

Quoting a high official of the Los Angeles Olympics Organising Committee, Maragall said Barcelona should also have an advantage on geographical grounds.

"He told me: You have the best assets, you have Olympus and the ideal Olympic site — Mount Montjuic and the sea. After all the ancient Olympics were held on a mountain in Athens by the sea," Maragall said.

## Sälonen wins Portuguese Rally

**ESTORIL, Portugal (R)** — Finland's Timo Salonen, driving a Peugeot, won the 2,430-km Portuguese Motor Rally Saturday night, according to unofficial results.

Salonen took eight hours seven minutes 25 seconds to complete the 47 special stages of the third 1985 World Championship event. It was this year's third successive victory for Peugeot.

Italian Massimo Biasini in Lancia was second, four minutes 47 seconds behind Salonen.

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# Canadian gold mines maintain their glitter

TORONTO: The recent slump in the gold price and uncertain prospects for recovery have not inhibited Canadian mining analysts from adding several gold mining shares to their lists of "buy" opportunities.

Mr. John Lydall, director of First Marathon Securities of Toronto, echoes many of his colleagues in arguing that gold producers "are the brightest spot of the Canadian mining industry right now, because at least they're making money."

Canada's gold mines may not have shared the windfall given to South African producers by a sharp depreciation of their local currency against the U.S. dollar.

The Canadian dollar has fallen by a relatively modest 12 per cent against the U.S. unit in the last year, compared with the South African rand's plunge of over 40 per cent.

But many Canadian producers are reaping the benefits of low operating costs, rising output (which contributes to greater mill efficiency), and timely measures to protect themselves against the lower gold price.

Several major mining companies have reported substantial profit advances during 1984.

Echo Bay Mines of Edmonton, which runs a successful, low-cost mine in the harsh environment of the Canadian Arctic, more than doubled earnings last year to C\$23.9 million (\$17.08 million).

Alfred Bunting and Company, a Toronto securities firm, forecast that Canada's biggest gold producer, Dome Mines, as well as companies such as Agnico Eagle and Lac Minerals will lift profits further this year, despite the firm's assumption of a slight decline in the average gold price.

The expectation that better times lie ahead was reflected earlier this year in prices on the Toronto stock exchange. The Gold Mines index advanced by 21 per cent in the first few weeks of 1985, although the recent fall in the retail price has wiped out much of that gain.

Gold's weak performance has, not surprisingly, claimed some victims. About half a dozen of Canada's 30-odd producers have halted operations or are in the process of doing so. All are high-cost mines unable to survive for long at a bullion price of less than \$350 an ounce.

Pamour Porcupine Mines, with production costs of around C\$460 an ounce (and the country's highest cost producer), has closed three of its five mines in northern Ontario, cutting output to 25,000 ounces in the final three months of 1984, from 28,700 ounces a year earlier.

A C\$1.7 million profit turned into a C\$1.1 million loss over the past year, bringing Pamour's total 1984 losses to C\$8.3 million.

Other casualties so far include Teck Corporation's Lamaque mine in Quebec, the Chimo mine also in Quebec and the British Columbia operation of Scottie Gold Mines, which needs a price of around \$400 an ounce to justify reopening.

A handful of other producers will also probably have to halt or curtail mining operations if the bullion price drops much further without a compensating fall in the Canadian dollar.

Among the vulnerable producers, most attention is focused on the troubled Detour Lake mine in north-east Ontario, jointly owned by Campbell Red Lake Mines (a Dome Mines subsidiary) and the U.S. resources group Amoco.

Detour Lake was brought to production towards the end of 1983 as a showpiece designed to maintain Campbell Red Lake's dominant position in Canadian gold mining. But the project has been dogged by a series of setbacks, including unexpectedly low ore grades and metallurgical problems.

Detour Lake's direct operating costs averaged an alarming C\$475 an ounce (\$350 at present exchange rates) in the first nine months of last year.

Dome Mines' president, Mr. Harry Brehault, insists that "there's no talk of closing" Detour Lake. Sinking of the underground shaft is going ahead as planned. The mine's present cost target is \$317 an ounce in 1985 (before depreciation), although Mr. Brehault says it is trying to bring the figure below \$300.

Among other producers threatened by a further prolonged decline in the gold price are another Dome subsidiary, Sigma Mines, Bachelor Lake in Quebec, and the mine at Cassier, British Columbia, owned by Erickson Gold Mines.

Loss of production from these sources is unlikely to break the upward trend of Canadian gold output. According to preliminary government estimates, production rose by about 11 per cent last year to 81.3 tonnes, and is expected to surpass 82 tonnes in 1985, increasing to 87 tonnes in 1987 when new mines exploiting the Hemlo deposit, north of Lake Superior, are close to full production.

It's business as usual for the mines with low operating costs. The Arthur White mine near Red Lake, Ontario, which is 65 per cent owned by Dickenson Mines, is raising output by 9-10,000 ounces a year. It produced 60,800 ounces in 1984 and is aiming at a final production ceiling of 90-95,000 ounces, current unit costs are around C\$240 an ounce, but could be cut to C\$210 an ounce by slowing down development work.

Similarly, output at Echo Bay's Lupin Mine rose to 47,500 ounces in the fourth quarter of 1984 from 34,400 a year earlier. Operating efficiencies facilitated by a mill expansion helped bring down the mine's breakeven costs (excluding finance and exploration charges) from \$263 per ounce in 1983 to \$198 last year.

The weak gold price has not slowed the pace of development at Hemlo, Canada's latest gold rush site, where three mines are currently under construction.

The first of the mines, Noranda's Golden Giant property, is due to begin production in April. Next on stream is likely to be the joint venture between Teck (55 per cent) and International Corona Resources (45 per cent), with output reaching 120,000 ounces of gold a year. A Teck official says that the low gold price "hasn't affected us at Hemlo".

The same applies to the third mine, owned by Lac Minerals, which is due to be commissioned before the end of this year, four months ahead of schedule.

Other new projects — albeit on a smaller scale — are in the pipeline. Eastmain Mines of Vancouver said early in February that it is studying the viability of a plant to extract gold from a 6 tonnes tailings deposit at Kirkland Lake, in northern Ontario. Several mines in the area have dumped waste material in the lake, and part of the tailings are permanently covered by water.

Exploration work is continuing in several provinces. A number of Canadian mining companies are also active in the U.S. Breakwater Resources of Vancouver has a 49 per cent stake in the Cannon gold project at Wenatchee, Washington, which is due to be brought to production this spring.

Canadian producers have become increasingly active participants in forward markets since the gold price began to slide. So uncertain is the price outlook that some mines have kept their risks to a minimum by selling their entire 1985 output forward.

Dome Mines has sold forward almost all Campbell Red Lake's 1985 production, as well as Sigma's entire output. Detour Lake's production has been sold at an average price of \$341 an ounce.

Sigma will obtain an average of \$320 an ounce for deliveries in the first half of the year and \$310 in the second half, ensuring its viability until at least the end of 1985.

Similarly, Lac Minerals has sold forward 100,000 ounces of deliveries from its Hemlo mine. The company has also contracted another 245,000 ounces from other properties at an average price (including Hemlo) of \$353.

Lac argues that "over the next year or so we do not think there is a very high risk that the price will average more than that."

But some companies still remain sceptical of the benefits of forward contracts. Dickenson Mines is one example. "It's not necessary that we do it," says Mr. Peter Munro, its president, adding candidly that the forward markets are "a business that I do not know much about" — Financial Times news feature.

Washington (R) — President Reagan is counting on a top treasury official, seen in Europe as unsympathetic to U.S. trading partners, to bring the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) back into line with the administration on economic policy.

Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, the newly-designated CEA chairman, is regarded as a "team player" who will keep his criticisms out of public earshot and avoid the furor sparked by his predecessor, Martin Feldstein, over high U.S. budget deficits.

While at the treasury, Mr. Sprinkel, 61, derided by detractors as "Beryl the peril", gained the enmity of some in Europe who regarded him as rigid and unsympathetic to their problems.

But he won a lead role in domestic and international economic policy debates and was an architect of Mr. Reagan's policy of limited intervention in world currency markets.

He is a member of the Monetarist School of Economics, a group that believes changes in the money supply offer the explanation for most economic developments.

Mr. Sprinkel, undersecretary of the treasury for monetary affairs for the first four years of the Reagan presidency, firmly believes in letting the marketplace work, a view critics say is out of touch with a dynamic economic world.

Mr. Feldstein left the council, which provides policy advice to the president, last July after several highly public clashes with then treasury secretary Mr. Donald Regan.

At one point, Mr. Regan told a congressional panel that the CEA's annual report should be tossed into the garbage can.

But Mr. Sprinkel worked well with Mr. Regan, who is now White House chief of staff.

The White House "had a very difficult time making sure the administration spoke with one voice when Marty (Feldstein) was in the chairman's seat," one senior aide said recently.

Unlike Mr. Feldstein, Mr. Sprinkel will keep any criticisms within the White House walls, his friends say.

Mr. Sprinkel, who often displays a jovial demeanour, toyed in his younger days with becoming a musician but abandoned the idea after he discovered economics.

His economic philosophy germinated while he was at the University of Chicago, where he was awarded a doctorate of economics and finance in 1952. He taught at both the University of Chicago and the University of Missouri, where he did his undergraduate studies.

Mr. Sprinkel has refused to discuss his views since his designation last month as CEA head, saying he will have no public comment until he is confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Allen Wallis, undersecretary of state for economic affairs, disagrees with those who call him rigid.

"He isn't doctrinaire or dogmatic at all. The people who say that are unable to cope with his command of the facts and analysis and so they dismiss him in pejorative terms," he said.

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# EC farm ministers meet over new price proposals

BRUSSELS (R) — Farm ministers of the European Community (EC) Monday begin the first round of an annual tussle over the level of farm prices in a debate diplomats say could prove crucial to the long-term future of its farm policy.

New farm commissioner Mr. Frans Andriessen has proposed unprecedented price cuts or freezes for most products, arguing that the group's growing stocks of unwanted food leave no alternative.

The proposals have left the 10 ministers, under immense pressure from powerful domestic farm lobbies, more deeply divided than ever and diplomats say one of the fiercest and most protracted annual price reviews is now likely.

Mr. Andriessen defends his price package as "a question of common sense" forced by market reality, and says it is an essential ingredient in a continuing process of bringing the 10-nation bloc's prodigal farm policy under control.

Last year, Community farm spending soared to over 19 billion European Currency Units (\$14 billion), forcing the group to provide emergency cash funding and sparking bitter quarrels between member states.

The crisis led to the first price cuts in the history of the Community's farm policy, blamed for creating the notorious surpluses by guaranteeing farmers artificially high prices, and a commitment by farm ministers to cut overproduction.

Mr. Andriessen is determined to keep the ministers to their pledges and authoritative Community sources say he views the initial debate as critical as it will indicate whether ministers are still resolved to travel the same path.

With the IMF, but added that there was no justification for euphoria that the general debt problem was over.

One concern of Latin American officials is that IMF programmes imposed big sacrifices on the region over the past two years without, they say, any corresponding gestures by creditor nations.

"What is the point in us making sacrifices when the United States feels it can spend whatever it wants," Mexico's public credit director Mr. Angel Gurria told Reuters, referring to the impact on interest rates of the U.S. budget deficit.

There is also resentment that IMF adjustment programmes have emphasised accumulation of foreign reserves through exports to repay debt, while neglecting internal growth.

Last year the region's global trade surplus rose 20 per cent to \$37.6 per cent after a three per cent drop in 1983. GDP per capita was down to 1976 levels.

Debt service payments rose eight per cent to \$37.3 billion last year with the result that the region was a net exporter of capital to the tune of \$26.7 billion, U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America (CELA) figures show.

"From the point of view of the international banks the programme has been a success because Brazil can now pay interest on its debt," economist Mr. Paulo Nogueira Batista of the Independent Getulio Vargas Foundation said.

But he said Brazil's programme failed to bring profound adjustment in the domestic economy, which is no healthier than when the IMF stepped in, with inflation more than doubling over the period.

Brazil was close to agreement on rescheduling \$45.3 billion when the IMF called a halt, in a move seen by some bankers as a signal to Latin America's debtors that it had been too lenient in the past.

Brazil, Mexico and Argentina have been patently unable to meet IMF targets on reducing inflation, largely because of heavy devaluations which made exports more competitive but increased import costs.

There is also growing frustration in these countries over protectionist moves in industrial nations, notably the imposition of U.S. steel import curbs, which cut their earnings.

Mr. Andriessen said in an interview with Reuters last week that he was not hopeful of a speedy and satisfactory outcome. "What I have heard so far is not at all encouraging," he said.

The ministers must first agree a new five-year farm modernisation package. The previous 3.75 billion ECU (\$2.7 billion) programme expired at the end of last summer and has since been rolled over month by month.

Community finance ministers are meeting at the same time and diplomats say they are likely to approve a new ceiling of some 5.5 billion ECUs (\$3.85 billion). The farm ministers then have to agree on the projects on which the money is to be spent.

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There is also growing frustration in these countries over protectionist moves in industrial nations, notably the imposition of U.S. steel import curbs, which cut their earnings.

At the same time, economists and officials warn that unless creditor nations agree to boost official lending to Latin America, the region will remain a net exporter of capital and thus further affect its growth prospects.

Looking ahead, Latin America is pessimistic about economic improvement this year, with the strong dollar, interest rates and protectionism posing threats.

In Brazil, some economists warn that the country may have problems meeting its targeted \$12 billion trade surplus should the U.S. economy slow as predicted in some circles.

Independent projections see Mexican inflation at around 50 per cent against a target of 35 per cent, and Argentina's new Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille is not expected to have any quick answers for bringing the rate down from 770 per cent.

While progress was made last year in lining up a total of \$130 billion in rescheduling agreements for Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela, they have yet to be signed and smaller debtors have made little headway.

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## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning opens with your being able to make a very interesting campaign to gain your deep-seated objectives with the assistance of influential persons, so go forward dynamically.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Business matters proceed nicely in the morning, but later you may need advice from experts. Do something thoughtful for loved ones.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A benefit early from a partner is fine in the morning, but later get into the work that will guarantee steady benefits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Although you begin work enthusiastically in the morning, later you can slow down and get fine results just the same.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Plan for amusements that you like early and then handle the work that needs to be done.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Get your home well organized early in the day so that you can get other affairs handled well later. Make wise plans for the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Early contact those who can be of assistance to you and you to them and come to a fine understanding. Be clever.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You understand how to take care of monetary matters in a more intelligent fashion, so get into them early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are able to gain those wishes that mean a great deal to you in the morning, so up and get 'em early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan your strategy early and then go after your aims in a positive way and gain them. Get personal affairs in order.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study how to follow through on advice given you by a dynamic friend who is an expert and make progress later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you show good citizenship, you can improve your position in the world considerably. Handle work efficiently.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Seek new ideas that can help you to get whatever it is that you desire the most to have. A newcomer is of assistance.



## Soviet team arrives for Geneva talks

## Moscow pledges to work for fair deal in talks with U.S.

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union's arms negotiators arrived in Geneva Sunday and pledged to work for a fair deal in new talks with the United States on curbing space and nuclear weapons.

A special Tupolev-154 airliner brought delegation chief Viktor Karpov and the two other main negotiators Yuli Kvitsinsky and Alexei Obukhov from Moscow two days before the new talks are due to open.

Standing beside the airliner, Mr. Karpov said he had a mandate from the Kremlin "to negotiate in a businesslike and constructive manner, seeking effective solutions."

"In doing so, this delegation will be consistently guided by the principle of equality and equal security," he added.

Mr. Karpov said the framework for the talks, linking space and nuclear arms "affords an opportunity for productive work and reaching solutions aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating on earth."

Agreement in these areas would be an important step towards attaining a truly historic goal — that of ultimately eliminating nuclear arms completely and everywhere," he said.

Mr. Kvitsinsky and Mr. Obu-

khov, who will handle space weapons and Intermediate Nuclear Weapons (INF) in the three-tier talks, stood beside Mr. Karpov as he spoke to reporters in Russian. Before the formal statement, Mr. Karpov, smiling and relaxed, chatted with Swiss officials in French.

A party of about 100 Soviet officials accompanied the negotiators, who arrived in strong early-spring sunshine. They climbed into waiting official cars and were driven off to the nearby Soviet mission.

U.S. chief negotiator Max Kampelman and his team arrived in Geneva Saturday morning. The two sides held their first meeting on Tuesday morning, marking the resumption of nuclear arms talks between the superpowers after a 15-month break.

The issue of space weapons has dominated public exchanges between Moscow and Washington in the two months since Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Secretary of State George Shultz agreed at a Geneva meeting to start

new negotiations.

Moscow has insisted that Washington drop its research programme for a Star Wars missile defence as a precondition to progress on the two nuclear areas — strategic and INF.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union's official media warned the public Sunday that arms talks with the United States opening in Geneva on Tuesday would be difficult and that major differences separated the two sides.

Every Soviet national newspaper published criticism of the United States' attitude to the talks, saying that Washington intended to press ahead with development of space weapons at the expense of the negotiations on nuclear missiles.

"We do not entertain illusions — the talks will be difficult," the government newspaper Izvestia said.

Izvestia dramatically highlighted the importance of the talks by headlining its commentary: "To be or not to be for life on earth."

Izvestia and the army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) said President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative could never be truly effective.

"The Soviet Union has enough political determination and material and technical potential to counter the U.S. space challenge and ensure its own security," Red Star said.

"The hope to escape retribution by hiding behind a missile shield is illusory. So isn't it better to look for honest and mutually acceptable accords?" Izvestia asked.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda insisted, however, that Moscow had the political will to reach agreement on the basis of parity and equal security.

Pravda said politburo member Vladimir Shcherbitsky's visit to the United States and his talks with members of Congress had produced a "frank and at times keen dialogue" about the problems of disarmament.

It criticised President Reagan for demanding, only days before the start of the Geneva talks, funding for a new batch of MX strategic nuclear missiles. Pravda rejected suggestions that a last-minute arms build-up also built up the American bargaining hand.

"An unnatural logic is manifest," it stated, adding: "Such symptoms on the Potomac show that the forthcoming talks will obviously be no easy ones."



NKOMO, MUZOREWA AT BURIAL: Zimbabwe opposition leaders Joshua Nkomo (second from right) and Bishop Abel Muzorewa (third from right) at the burial of two of their supporters gunned down in violence they blame on Prime Minister Robert Mugabe (AP wirephoto)

## Kampuchean rebel leader killed

BANGKOK (R) — A top Kampuchean guerrilla commander Sunday was reported killed and Thailand spurned Hanoi's peace moves as fighting on both sides of the Thai-Kampuchean border raged on.

Gen. King Men was killed when Green Hill guerrilla base in Kampuchea near the Thai border, authorities said. Fighting on both sides of the border showed no signs of slackening, they said.

Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila told Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden he would not consider suggestions for a peaceful settlement of the six-year Kampuchean conflict until Vietnamese incursions into Thailand were ended.

He said 3,000 Vietnamese troops intruded 10 kilometres into Thai territory last Tuesday and were resisting Thai attempts to push them back.

Thai military sources gave no details of the fighting. Guerrillas said more Vietnamese reinforcements were brought in for a renewed assault at Green Hill, also known as Tatum. It is the last major guerrilla base intact since Vietnamese troops began their offensive last November.

Authoritative sources said Gen. King Men was killed last Friday when an artillery shell hit his command bunker.

Officials of the National Sihanoukian Army (ANS) said they could not confirm Gen. King Men's death. Listed as ANS sec-

ond in command, he was an architect of the defences of Green Hill.

The same day he was reported killed, the French-trained officer had ordered ANS flanking units to lay a mortar barrage directly onto his command bunker to beat back a Vietnamese assault, according to a top ANS aide.

Guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk promoted King Men to general two weeks ago at his headquarters, a warren of concrete and timber tunnels and bunkers about 2.5 kilometres inside Kampuchea.

Diplomats said Sihanouk will not commit his guerrillas to suffering high losses to defend Green Hill. Fifteen guerrillas have been killed and 92 wounded in the battle, the ANS said.

## Indian security forces patrol Hyderabad

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Security forces patrolled the troubled South Indian city of Hyderabad Sunday after six people died in post-election violence.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said one man was stabbed to death when curfew was relaxed Saturday for two hours in the old quarter of the city, capital of Andhra Pradesh state.

The curfew was clamped on the old quarter after clashes on Friday between supporters of rival political parties. Five people were killed and 10 injured in Friday's unrest, PTI said.

The factions clashed as officials were recounting the votes cast in the district during state assembly elections last week. They said there had been a suspiciously high turnout.

The two main contenders in the constituency were the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party and

the Muslim Majlis Ittehad Ul Muslimeen.

Hyderabad, whose population of three million is almost equally split between Hindus and Muslims, has been often the focus of communal tension. Some 45 people died in sectarian clashes there last September.

N.T. Rama Rao, who led his regional Telugu Desam Party to a decisive victory in the Andhra Pradesh elections, vowed to deal firmly with rioters.

He was sworn in Saturday as chief minister of the state for a second term.

Andhra Pradesh was among 11 Indian states that held state assembly elections last Saturday and Tuesday. At least 50 people were killed in violence during the elections.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party swept the polls

in eight of the states, but suffered reverses in Andhra Pradesh, the South Indian state of Karnataka and the north eastern state of Sikkim.

The Indian government Saturday extended a ban on foreigners travelling to the troubled Punjab, while the main Sikh political party threatened a statewide agitation there if the government failed to meet its demands.

An official announcement said state authorities had been given powers to allow two categories of foreigners to visit the army-controlled region "in special circumstances." Businessmen and those whose relatives were Indian and living in Punjab.

Earlier, only the Indian Home Affairs Ministry was empowered to issue special travel permits. The ban has been in effect nine months.

## 16 South Africans in treason trial denied bail

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Sixteen South Africans due to appear in the nation's biggest treason trial for a quarter of a century are likely to remain in jail for up to two years whether they are found innocent or guilty, lawyers said Sunday.

Natal's attorney-general, Michael Imber, announced last week that he had issued an order forbidding bail for the 16 leading opponents of the white minority government.

He acted under the Internal Security Act, which allows attorneys-general to prevent a court granting bail in the cases of certain serious crimes concerning state security. The 16 are due to appear in a Durban court next Friday to ask for bail.

They include two joint presidents of the two-million strong anti-apartheid United Democratic Front Archie Gumede and Albertina Sisulu.

## Nkomo denies approving tourists' death

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe (R) — Zimbabwe's chief opposition leader Joshua Nkomo has denied allegations that he had approved the murder of six foreign tourists kidnapped by rebels in July, 1982.

The allegations were made by Gilbert Ngwenya, the self-confessed leader of the kidnap gang, who has been sentenced to death for the abduction and several murders.

Ngwenya was speaking in an interview with Justice Minister Edson Zvobgo and Zimbabwean journalists which was broadcast on television and radio. A day after Prime Minister Robert Mugabe announced that the remains of the tourists had been found and conclusively identified.

Mr. Mugabe said the six, two Americans, two Britons and two Australians were murdered by rebels three days after their abduction 75 kilometres north of this south western city.

In the interview, which was carried by the National Ziana News Agency and published in Harare and Bulawayo newspapers Saturday, Ngwenya said Mr. Nkomo was his leader and that he had contacted Mr. Nkomo before and after the tourists were killed.

Ngwenya, also known as Eskimo Wasi, said: "We sent a message to him (Nkomo) and he told us: 'Go ahead with your activities. There is no problem.'"

Ngwenya added: "We took this to mean we could do whatever we liked. I had to contact him as he is my leader. I am a soldier."

Mr. Nkomo, leader of the ZAPU Party, denied he had had any contact with the kidnap gang. "Why did he not say all this in court? I am ashamed of the manner in which this affair has been treated. My name has been played with for a long time now," he told journalists here.

At his trial last year Ngwenya said the tourists were alive in Zambia.

Speaking later at a funeral service for two opposition party followers killed in political violence two weeks ago, Mr. Nkomo charged that the interview was politically motivated.

## Bush says Mali to be keystone of aid programme

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Vice President George Bush said Saturday the U.S. administration has chosen this drought-stricken nation as one keystone of a programme designed to encourage a market-oriented farm economy in Africa.

Mr. Bush, speaking at the signing of an agreement transferring 60,300 tons of U.S. food aid, said Mali was one of four African countries whose economic reform programme would be supported by President Ronald Reagan's administration.

He did not name the three other countries, and a senior U.S. official said it has not been determined how to use the \$75 million Congress approved for the programme.

Mali, one of the world's 10 poorest countries, instituted economic

reforms with the help of the United Nations and Western governments in 1981. Change has been slower than the aid donors wanted, however, and they have urged quicker adoption of a free-market system.

"We will do everything we can to reinforce your courageous efforts to liberalise your economy and turn it toward the private sector," Mr. Bush told Malian officials.

In a toast to President Moussa Traore at a state dinner, Mr. Bush promised help in dealing with Africa's drought and famine.

"Beyond the immediate crisis, the United States has heard another voice from Mali as well," he added. "We have heard you say that you are going to take a historic turn in agricultural policy —

an historic turn that, we trust, once the historic drought subsides and the rains return, will help ensure that famine of this magnitude never again comes to Mali."

Mr. Bush, who visited Sudan and Niger before coming here, will fly to Switzerland Sunday. On Monday, he will address a conference in Geneva of donor nations and urge them to increase their famine relief for Africa.

He said in an interview that he would "make an appeal to the conscience of the world to assist these countries that have been in distress. This will transcend East and West and ideology and help the children, mothers and those who are suffering from drought."

Mr. Bush said earlier in the day before leaving Niamey, Niger, that the United States cannot turn its back on drought-ravaged Africa.

but its food surpluses must be used to meet worldwide demand.

He noted demands in the United States that the government care for Americans' needs before helping those abroad and he said, "the answer is we have to find a balanced programme."

"When you have seen the suffering that we have seen along the way and when you hear first hand from chiefs of state whom we respect about their needs, it is impossible for the United States to turn its back on these requirements," he told reporters at the Niamey news conference.

Mr. Bush said the United States is committed to provide half the emergency food Africa needs, and he would appeal to the other donor nations to provide the other half.

## Filipino opposition holds biggest meeting in 16 years

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Groups opposed to President Ferdinand Marcos met in the largest opposition convention in 16 years Sunday but some of Mr. Marcos' most prominent critics refused to attend.

With a brass band, banners calling for "justice, freedom and democracy," and strong attacks against Mr. Marcos and his wife Imelda, more than 700 delegates packed into a swank country club banquet hall.

They approved a 12-point declaration of principles calling for the "dismantling of the Marcos dictatorship," restoration of human rights and a review of U.S.-Philippine relations, including the future of U.S. military bases.

Former Sen. Rene Espina welcomed the delegates "under the conjugal dictatorship," referring to Mr. Marcos and his wife, and accused the government of "over-taxing, over-borrowing, over-stealing and ... overkilling" the Filipino people.

Officials of the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), which organised the

convention, said the meeting would pass several resolutions aimed at organising and unifying a dozen opposition parties for the 1986 local and 1987 presidential elections.

The convention originally was called to nominate presidential and vice presidential contenders against Mr. Marcos in the 1987 election but organisers said this was scrapped because of charges from other opposition groups that it intended to railroad the nomination of former Sen. Salvador Laurel.

Mr. Laurel, who heads the UNIDO, took a low-key role in the convention.

Assemblyman Luis Villafuerte, a Laurel supporter, said all opposition groups were invited and that presidential candidates would not be picked until an even broader coalition could be called. He gave no date for it.

A rival opposition alliance, known as the convenors, sent a message that was read to the convention, outlining the reasons for its refusal to participate. The group, headed by Corazon

Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, industrialist Jaime Ongpin and former Sen. Lorenzo Tanada, said it was committed to a plan for choosing an opposition standard bearer and was afraid the convention might adopt procedures it could not accept.

The convenors also said any convention should include citizens groups, not previously involved in politics, that have been protesting against the Marcos regime in the streets.

"Without these forces, meaningful unity cannot be achieved," the convenors said. The group said its goal is to select a presidential candidate for a snap election in case Mr. Marcos leaves office early.

Mr. Villafuerte said he hoped the two groups could come together. He said the convention would consult with the convenors on its own plans for any emergency election.

The delegates voted to accept the declaration of principles "in principle" without debate. Delegates included leaders of

the Nacionalista and Liberal parties, which dominated Philippine politics before Mr. Marcos declared eight years of martial law and organised his own New Society Party. Representatives of several new parties, including the growing Filipino Democratic Labor (fight), the Mindanao Alliance and the Social Democrats, also came.

Among the leaders at a head table was Ribomapi Holganza, whom Mr. Marcos had given a 72-hour furlough after keeping him in a military stockade for more than two years on rebellion and murder charges.

"I feel the regime is a terminal case. It's ending," Mr. Holganza said in an interview. He called Mr. Marcos' action "a sporting gesture," but said he believes he has been kept in jail because of his outspoken criticism of the regime.

"It's not an extraordinary act of courage. I am just as scared as anybody," said Mr. Holganza, who was escorted from his cell in the central Philippine city of Cebu by three soldiers in civilian clothes.

## COLUMN

## 3-day party ends in bachelor's village

PLAN, Spain (R) — A three-day fiesta in this remote mountain village organised by 120 lonely bachelors seeking brides ended early Sunday with reports of at least three formal engagements. Residents of this Pyrenean hamlet said numerous couples had been formed during the festivities, and several of them were talking about matrimony. "It's certainly been a success," one bachelor said, adding that the men were thinking of making the dance a yearly event. The single men of Plan and nearby villages had advertised for brides in a local newspaper because of a shortage of women in the area.

## Child plunges 14 stories, survives

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — A 3-year-old girl who plunged 14 stories down a garbage chute was saved by a pile of trash, police said. Ouida Stone, who either fell or was pushed down the chute, escaped with minor injuries after spending the night in the garbage, said police Sgt. Al Davis. The girl was in the care of a babysitter and disappeared while playing with other children in the 14th-floor hallway of a public housing project on the city's south side, Davis said. Later, when the babysitter could not find the girl in the hallway, she and some neighbours began searching the building. When the girl did not show up, the babysitter notified police, who searched the building all night, Davis said. About 9:30 a.m., police heard faint cries coming from the trash chute and found the girl, he said. The trash apparently had broken the child's fall and kept her warm, Davis said. The girl was treated at Michael Reese Hospital and released, Davis said.

## Egypt plans 2-day weekend

CAIRO (R) — Most Egyptian government ministries have been told to introduce a two-day weekend from next Saturday in a bid to unclog Cairo's traffic jams. Hitherto, Friday, the Muslim holy day, has been the only day off for more than half a million civil servants. Now, staff in eight ministries will take Thursday and Friday off and staff in 12 others will take Friday and Saturday. All will continue to work a 36-hour week.

## Geese guard £700m worth of whisky

LONDON (R) — A chorus of cackling geese greets unwelcome intruders to a Scotch whisky warehouse where £700 million (\$742 million) worth of the precious fluid is stored. A flock of elite Chinese geese patrol the 40-acre warehouses of George Ballantine and Sons, near Glasgow, Scotland, the Observer newspaper reported. The unorthodox security measures were inspired by history, on the basis that if geese could warn the ancient Romans of invading Gauls, they could probably deter modern Glasgow villains.

## Newspaper magnate to launch new paper

LONDON (R) — Newspaper and publishing magnate Rupert Murdoch announced he is to launch a new, 24-hour paper later this year. The newspaper, to be called the Post, will be published as a London evening and a national morning. Murdoch's international publishing empire started in his native Australia with news corporation and now includes newspapers in the United States and Britain, where his British subsidiary News International owns the prestigious Times and the mass-circulation Sun among other titles.

## World's longest tunnel connected

TOKYO (R) — The world's longest undersea railway tunnel was connected up Sunday when Transport Minister Tokuo Yamashita blasted open the last one-metre earthen wall by ceremonially pressing a button to ignite the dynamite. The tunnel, running between Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido and its main island of Honshu, is 53.85 kilometres long with 23.3 kilometres under the seabed. The deepest part is 240 metres under the surface of the water or 100 metres under the seabed, officials said. Connected to cost almost 700 million yen (\$2.68 billion).

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠KQ109 76 ♠A32 ♠K973  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 West North East South  
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
 What action do you take?  
 Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠983 ♠AK6 ♠AK7 ♠AKQ5  
 What is your opening bid?  
 Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠KJ6 71065 ♠KQ852 ♠92  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South  
 1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?  
 What do you bid now?  
 Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠AKJ6 7AK53 ♠J ♠Q1063

- The bidding has proceeded:  
 South West North East  
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
 ?  
 What action do you take?  
 Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
 ♠AJ63 ♠KJ76 ♠J5 ♠1072  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South West  
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠  
 4 ♠ Pass ?  
 What action do you take?  
 Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
 ♠6 7873 ♠AKJ62 ♠Q754  
 The bidding has proceeded:  
 North East South  
 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?  
 What action do you take?